



**JAMES N. WITKOWIAK**  
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

## **Statement of Alderman James N. Witkowiak January 12, 2010**

An article in today's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* covers the pending liquor license application for 551 W. Becher St.

The article is subtitled "**Council sent back application despite start of renovation work.**"

This subtitle implies that there is something wrong with taking proper procedural action against an application when the applicant has already invested money in a proposed site.

By that reasoning, an applicant who purchases a tavern building, in advance of obtaining a liquor license, should be given special consideration by the Common Council.

An applicant knows, or should know, that there are no guarantees until the license is granted and issued. It is foolish to invest money in advance of possession of a license, and that should be clear to the applicant. Clear either by common sense or by advice from a local alderman and/or advice of an attorney.

The proposed liquor store site is on the far edge of the 14<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District, directly across the street from the 12<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District that I represent. And it sits in a neighborhood where there is strong sentiment against new liquor licenses being granted because of a high concentration of current licenses.

Some residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> District expressed surprise that a liquor store license for 551 W. Becher St. had been recommended by the Licenses Committee in December. I was surprised myself because I had not been afforded notice by the alderman representing the 14<sup>th</sup> District. Such notice is customary, though not mandated, in cases where an issue at a district boundary is up for consideration.

I intend to continue to argue against approval of a liquor license at 551 W. Becher St. solely because the neighborhood has enough such existing establishments.

###