



CITY OF
PEORIA

PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

February 28, 2022

City of Peoria, Liquor Commission
Office of Corporation Counsel
City of Peoria, Illinois

RE: Site Approval Application #22-08
Family Dollar Stores, Inc.
d/b/a Family Dollar #5922
820 NE Jefferson Ave.
Requesting: Class C-1 (packaged goods)

Dear Commissioners,

A site approval application has been received from *Family Dollar Stores, Inc.*, d/b/a Family Dollar #5922, 820 NE Jefferson Ave., Peoria, Illinois. Approval of this site application would allow the applicant to sell packaged liquor for off-site consumption at this location.

Officer Kevin Slavens inspected the site which is located along NE Jefferson, between Wayne Street and Morgan Street. The site is currently open and operating as a convenience store and neighbors Stop N Save, In-N-Out Liquors, Warren Danz Law Office, Keith Engineering Design, Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Mid Illinois Companies and The Romain Arts & Culture Center. There are also two single family residences located across the street to the west at 821 and 817 NE Jefferson Avenue from this proposed site.

This area of town struggles with constant nuisance issues and various other crimes, such as loitering, littering, panhandling, daily public alcohol consumption, prostitution and open-air drug trafficking. There are two properties located less than 300 feet from this proposed site that are currently on the Peoria Police Department Neighborhood Services Unit's nuisance properties watch list. Historically, liquor stores have led to an increase in crime, traffic, noise, litter, and other similar quality of life issues resulting in a general overall decline of a neighborhood. The Peoria Police Department feels the addition of packaged liquor sales at this proposed location will only exacerbate these ongoing issues for the residents that live nearby, as well as the police department.

From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 the Peoria Police Department responded to 109,529 police calls for service throughout the city. This store is located within a three block "hot-spot" area of town where the Peoria Police Department investigated three separate homicides in the last six months, as well as numerous other criminal incidents over the last several years. The proposed site resides in police district 5 with officers responding to 6,615 police calls for service in this district alone. This police district borders police district 10 (east bluff) which is the second busiest district in the city for both calls for service (11,257) and major crime incidents (524) as well. The Peoria Police Department strongly believes that the approval of this site application would only compound these incidents of crime in and around the area, add to the already high call volume in this district and further strain already stretched police resources.

Furthermore, the Peoria Police Department does not believe there is an economic need, nor community desire for another store that sells packaged liquor in this part of town. In-N-Out Liquors is located at 305 Wayne Street and approximately 300 feet to the southwest of Family Dollar.

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Peoria, IL 61602-1592
Phone 309.494.8300



PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Peoria, Liquor Commission
February 28, 2022
Page 2

The Peoria Police Department feels that In-N-Out Liquors has adequately served the community in this neighborhood over the last 29 years for the sale of packaged liquor. Additionally, the Peoria Police Department believes that the residents in this area of town have several other retail options for the sale of liquor. Tony's Market, Short Stop Frye Food & Liquor, Obed & Isaac's, Cole's Corner Tap and Veterans Pub & Pizza are all located less than 1.5 miles from this proposed site.

The Peoria Police Department also has strong concerns that the addition of another retailer that sells packaged liquor in such close proximity to the Peoria Housing Authority – *Providence Pointe*, formerly known as Taft Homes, would be detrimental to this neighborhood. This residential area is currently undergoing a \$47 million HUD / PHA re-development project to revitalize this housing complex. The police department believes the approval of this application would be harmful and counterintuitive to the city's efforts to re-develop and stabilize this residential community into vibrant and safe neighborhood.

Finally, the Peoria Police Department has consistently objected to site approval applications for proposed sites located in areas of town that have struggling and blighted neighborhoods. Site approvals, being location specific and not owner specific, have proven extremely difficult to revoke once approved. Accordingly, the Peoria Police Department adamantly recommends **denial** of this site approval application.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Echevarria
Chief of Police

EE/ks

CC: City Clerk
Corporation Counsel