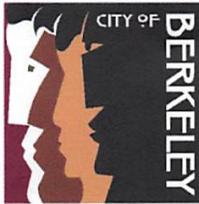


Internal



Police Department

January 8th, 2023

TO: Russell Roe, Associate Planner
City of Berkeley, Department of Planning and Development
1947 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Book Society., 2945 College Ave. Berkeley 94703

Dear Mr. Roe,

This letter is in response to your request to review a proposed change to the above business as outlined in the attached Zoning Project Application. The owner (Dane Bunton) of Book Society is requesting to begin alcoholic beverage service, to conduct retail sales of wine and incidental food service, and change of use to a bar. The service of alcoholic beverages will be incidental to food service. The applicant/owner indicates they will obtain an Alcohol Beverage Control License Type 42 (On-Sale Beer & Wine – Public Premises).

Based on the information from the applicant's statement and research of our records, Berkeley Police Department supports approval of this application.

From the application it appears as though this is a new business operation. There are no substantive changes to the streetscape, front of the business, or anywhere else on the exterior, with the exception of a door to the back-parking lot and new exterior signage. The rear door is not a public entrance, but will only be used to provide employee access.

We believe the addition of this new business in the neighborhood will not cause a radical change to the neighborhood. The neighborhood is very active with businesses, other restaurants/bars, nightlife and students. The business will most certainly be a welcomed addition to the neighborhood. A record check with ABC shows Book Society LLC has no prior operating restrictions, disciplinary action or disciplinary history to report. The location appears to be in good standing with ABC.

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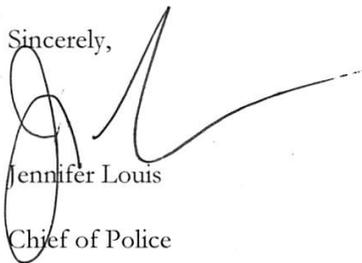
The business will not significantly alter vehicle or pedestrian traffic in the area. The space is in an existing commercial space, located on the east side of the street, just north of the intersection. As stated above, this area of College Ave and Ashby Av. is a very active business district. Book Social at this address seems to easily fit in with the character of this neighborhood.

An analysis of police calls for service data shows 30 calls for service in the current BPD database which dates to 2009. There is a broad range of miscellaneous calls between 2009-2019 including thefts, disturbances, trespassing and alarm calls. The location was owned/operated by a different business from 2009-2019. Nothing indicates a pattern of conduct from the prior business that caused or aided to crime or disorder. We have received no calls for service at 2945 College Av. since 11/2019.

Based on this information we believe the proposed addition is not at all likely to increase crime or disorder in the south/east Berkeley area. Researching other applications, we have noticed a correlation between businesses having live music and increased calls for service to BPD, often for noise complaints. Book Social will not have any live music or amplified sound.

In conclusion, we see no reason to believe this business would increase crime or calls for service in the neighborhood, and see no reason it would have an adverse effect on the health or safety, of the people in the area. This proposed use will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements of the adjacent properties, the surround area or neighborhood, or to the general welfare of the city.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Louis

Chief of Police

JL/kf