

MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

Letters from residents opposing the re-opening of Vision (now known as SPI).

Generally, these were sent to the Mayor, certain city council members, NPU chairpersons, and members of the city-wide License Review Board. In a recent MPSA e-mail, we asked folks to write letters and attend meetings to ensure that opposition was documented.

Please see also our dossier at www.Midtownponce.org/news/spi.pdf

This packet was last updated on 8/27/2009

#1

As a homeowner in Midtown I am writing to you in opposition of the new nightclub trying to open on Peachtree St.

I am very involved in my community and part of many safety and community betterment organizations and am concerned about the negative impact this club will have on the image of Midtown, our quality of life and property values in the area. Members of our community are working diligently to make Midtown a better, safer place to live and allowing this club to open would most likely counteract all the hard work we have put in to our community.

Given the history of the owners of this club as well as the number of incidents that have occurred at their property's it seems likely that it will only be a matter of time before this club causes quality of life and safety concerns in Midtown.

Potential buyers have already lost money on contracts for units in 1010 Midtown due to the possibility of this club opening and that is just the beginning of what would lay ahead.

We have collected over 1300 signatures in protest to the opening of this club and that number continues to grow every day.

Considering the history of this applicant, the incidents that have occurred at this property's and backwards way in which he has tried to get around the rules in getting this new club opened, it is obvious this is not the type of business or owner we need in Midtown.

Please support the residents of Midtown in improving this wonderful neighborhood and don't allow this club to open. We work hard to support our city and community and hope that in return it will do what is best for the majority.

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www.Midtownponce.org

#2

As a member of the Board of Directors for the 1023 Juniper Street Lofts, I wanted to express my discontent, as well as that of our homeowners, with the proposed SPI Club located across the street from our property. Having attended the Liquor License Review Meeting last night, I won't take up too much of your time and reiterate all the concerns expressed by the residents; I will just say that we too can attest to Mr. Gidewon's lack of concern for the surrounding home owners (having lived through Club Vision and Club 112).

For me personally, I feel this is both a public safety issue as well as a gamble with the proposed Midtown Mile. With regard to public safety, it's imperative we have an honest conversation about the crime and violence that is prolific in contemporary nightclubs. I recently posted the following blog regarding nightclub related deaths in the Atlanta area:

I have to say... I'm extremely disappointed that people are trying to make this into a racial or homophobic issue – its not. This is about people's safety. This is about the fact that numerous individuals have been brutally killed in these types of establishments. Does anyone remember Randy Griffin? The man shot and killed outside of Club 112 on 11th and Peachtree... or the security guard shot at Club Dreams... how about Carl Edwards Green who was shot at Opera... or the guy shot in the abdomen twice at Compound... or the two men stabbed at Lucky Lounge... or Demetrius Holt who was shot in the back and killed at American Legion. Why isn't anyone talking about these murders and the unfortunate fact night clubs nurture this type of crime? Why are the supporters of this club willing to take another chance at the cost of someone's life?

With regard to the Midtown Mile, my concern is that it will be doomed before it can even get started. Although I'm not an expert in City finances, I have to assume that the infamous shootings that shut down the entire Buckhead entertainment district must have cost the City millions of dollars in lost revenue and property taxes– we can't afford to let this happen in Midtown. The City can't afford to take this gamble! Just my humble opinion. Please say no to the submitted Liquor license!

#3

We were present at the MNA Liquor License meeting yesterday evening. We left more troubled by the SPI Club then when we arrived. We did voice a few concerns at the meeting but, have more concerns then 90 seconds allowed us to mention.

We do still feel this business and any business of its type will be a detriment to the development of the Midtown Mile. There is a reason all other clubs are on Crescent Ave. If you look at any other major city with prosperous development projects you will

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not see clubs in the mix of the types of businesses permitted. Prime example is the Magnificent Mile in Chicago – all clubs are on a parallel street, not on Michigan Ave. itself. Residential development along Peachtree has already suffered with the economic state of things. Majority of the buildings are largely empty. Do you really think a club like SPI will draw residents and businesses into 1010 Midtown, 1075 Development, and other Midtown developments?

The parking solutions proposed by A&R Engineering are simply insufficient and ill-thought. We realize code and regulations may only call for 45 spaces however, we are residents of the Viewpoint tower and we are not concerned with the regulations as much as my neighborhood. A&R has proposed 232 spaces. Apparently this number is incorrect as brought up by another business owner at the meeting. According to that business owner SPI club is about 10 spaces short of their requirements. Even if 232 spaces + 200 spaces (930 Juniper St.) were adequate by regulation, it is not adequate by capacity. The stated capacity of SPI Club is 1,316. 432 parking spaces would be adequate if each car arrived with 4 people. As all of us know, Atlantans do not drive this way. Generally, people will arrive 2 to a vehicle. This will result in a shortage of parking spaces for 452 people. I can say with some certainty that 452 people will not be arriving by taxi cab. A&R has not clearly identified the “satellite” parking areas that club-goers will be able to use. A shortage of parking will cause club-goers to come further down into the neighborhood and cause unacceptable traffic congestion.

SPI club proposes a very limited area which they will keep clean. For areas beyond their scope they have a very thin solution, for trash removal, that comes with absolutely no guarantee. Their proposed option of collaborating with other club owners on Crescent Ave. is just an idea at this stage. We do question why a club on Crescent Ave. would put money into cleaning up Peachtree St. and Juniper St.? SPI club has a responsibility to the neighborhood to arrive at a more effective trash removal solution.

A club in Midtown is not a bad thing, a club on Peachtree is. We welcome development and diverse business establishments however, an establishment of this nature on Peachtree St. will be detrimental to the future development of the Midtown Mile. Great progress has already been made in the efforts of this development. Please do not reverse them.

#4

This short note from a Fulton County/Atlanta City taxpayer and voter, [name omitted], wishes to state unequivocally an opposition to allowing Club Vision/Spi to locate in Midtown. The organization is not a good neighbor and invites only problems into the neighborhood I call home. Please so not allow the club into Midtown.

#5

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I am writing to voice my concern about the opening of a nightclub in Midtown. In light of continued crime in the neighborhood, I am against the opening of such an establishment without the infrastructure to keep our residents as well as customers safe. Our neighborhood is already paying for lack of city resources with increased crime and trash. While Midtown residents high property taxes, we also pay privately for additional patrols. There have been no assurances from the city that police patrols will be adequate to handle the additional traffic coming to Midtown.

While I am in favor of making Midtown a destination for Atlantans and tourists, we need to make it safe and clean. Midtown Atlanta should be a part of the city we can all be proud of. Allowing the nightclub to open without proper resources is irresponsible.

#6

Speaking for myself and the APCA, I would urge the city NOT to allow Vision/SPI to open in Midtown. I agree with many of the sentiments in the letters attached that fear this club would bring down the reputation of Midtown, adversely impact many of the Midtown merchants, increase crime in our neighborhood, increase illegal parking in our neighborhood, and add to what is already becoming a traffic nightmare along Peachtree at 14th and 10th over the weekends. We already have the draw of the "W" Hotel and "Shout"- some of that is good, some not so good in the evenings. Soon there will be even more quality hotels along Peachtree with lovely restaurants and bars. I would hope the community leaders would have a higher standard for Midtown would want to attract a better variety of visitors to our area.

#7

I live at Park Central Condominiums, 1101 Juniper Street, Atlanta, GA 30309, located on Juniper between 13th and 12 Streets.

My neighbors and I are opposed to the DRC and Liquor License applications by Michael Gidewon to locate a night club at 1021 & 1037 Peachtree Street, Zoning Classification: SPI-16/SA1 Storefront Street frontage on Peachtree Street, A Midtown Mile Property.

The applicant has proven himself and his previous businesses to be detrimental to neighborhoods. This is the same ownership group that operated Club Vision at 1010 Peachtree and Compound on Brady Avenue west of Midtown. In both cases, the lack of help from the ownership to address serious community concerns adversely affected the surrounding areas. Our city should not approve these applications.

The parking, traffic/cruising, noise, safety and security concerns surrounding this proposed club will not be adequately addressed to the satisfaction of the neighborhood. Mr. Gidewon's other clubs have brought violent crime and unwelcome noise, drugs, traffic, and safety issues to their surrounding areas. The owners have stated that they plan to hire between 10 and 40 off duty police officers and other security personnel to

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work around the club. My neighbors and I are opposed to permitting a business in our midst requiring such an intensive level of security on an ongoing basis. This club, with a 3 am closing time, will destroy the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors that we've worked so hard to bring to Midtown Atlanta. Its patrons and staff will very likely interfere with those of the new Lowes Hotel, scheduled to open this coming April.

With crime and public safety, resident/homeowners' property values and taxes, and quality of life among the key concerns in our city, this new night club should not be allowed to open in the revitalized Midtown area. I'm sure that our shared vision of Atlanta does not include the pounding noise, long cues of people, violence, litter, traffic, and other crime associated with nightclubs just outside our homes' doors and windows.

Mayor Franklin, City Council Members, and LRB Members, please deny these applications.

#8

As a residents of Midtown, my husband and I request that SPI nightclub does not open in our neighborhood. The crime and undesirable behavior that Vision brought to our neighborhood was a nightmare to say the least. Walking in the evening in the neighborhood was not possible due to loitering and ridiculous amounts of traffic.

Walking the next day would be just as bad given the bottles, marketing slicks, and garbage that lined our streets. My tax money pays for this cleanup as well as the extra security needed in the neighborhood to keep the patrons under control. We have a beautiful neighborhood at this time. Walking in the evenings is lovely. Why would you or any other person approve such a debacle for our neighborhood? Please say, "NO!"

#9

I am deeply concerned Vision night club will re-open. When they were open in 2002/2003/2004 Midtown was a miserable place to live on the weekends. I am also concerned that the owners have already spent millions on the club renovations raising questions about the legitimacy of their application. There is no way they would move forward with that scale of an investment unless someone in the city government promised them the go ahead. If they are approved the residents of Midtown will demand an investigation of those persons responsible for approving their application and if there is any hanky panky we will all want justice. This city is corrupt and it's time to put an end to it. I don't know who should be getting this but if you would like to send me the appropriate emails for my Midtown representatives I will be happy to re-send it.

#10

My husband and I are residents of Midtown, and we have just been made aware that the city council will be holding public meetings about the re-opening of Vision night club. We cannot attend these meetings, but I wanted to e-mail you to voice our concerns.

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I moved to Midtown about 3 years ago and have been impressed with how much the area has moved forward in such a short time. We really live in a lovely neighborhood within the city. I know that when the runners came through our section of Peachtree on July 4th, they were all impressed with the development of the Midtown Mile. I understand that the opening of Vision would bring revenue to the neighborhood and the city, but if the "Midtown Mile" is really to become what planners hope it will become, the re-opening of Vision is one of the surest ways to make sure that goal is not realized.

I hope you will keep in mind that, while Vision might bring revenue to the city, it will surely have an overall negative economic impact on the area. When Vision was open, there were many vagrants, drug dealers, prostitutes, etc. in the area. If Vision re-opens and these same groups return, it will hurt the business of all of the local merchants. The building of the Loews and the remodeling of the W will have been a waste. The new restaurants at the bottom of 1010 Peachtree will suffer. The big anchor law firms who are searching for new leases will leave the area. No one will want to move into all of the new condos. Opening Vision will ensure that Midtown reverts to the less-than-desirable area that it once was. The original idea for the Underground failed. Atlantic Station has not become what it was planned to be. Please don't let Midtown be the next failed project.

Please think about the fact that the people in your constituency that have been making Midtown a great place to live do NOT want this club to open. I hope you all will have the foresight to realize that by allowing the opening of Vision, you will be destroying all Midtown has become.

I have faith that you will do all you can to make sure Vision does not open.

Please do not allow this to happen to our home.

#11

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, NPU Officers and the License Review Board :
I am writing to express my objection to the opening of a nightclub, reportedly to be called "Spi," by Mr. Michael Gidewon on Peachtree Street next door to the soon-to-be-opened Loew's Hotel and across the street from the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank. I well remember Mr. Gidewon's Vision Nightclub which was at the current location of the condo development 1010Midtown (between 11th and 12th Streets on Peachtree) and what a nightmare it created as regards noise, traffic and, reputedly, crime. As a resident of the up-and-coming Midtown area since 2005, I feel very happy about the positive direction the neighborhood has taken and would hate to see it revert to its earlier deplorable reputation. I have made a substantial investment in a condominium in the 1010Midtown complex and to have the kind of establishment that

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Mr. Gidewon tends to create open right across the street would make me very unhappy and, I believe, would be a detriment to the Midtown neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration in denying Mr. Gidewon the right to open his nightclub.

#12

I thought that Peachtree Street was going to be transformed into The Midtown Mile - world class shopping, dining, hotels, offices, etc. - www.Midtownmile.org

There is nothing world class about either Vision Nightclub or Compound.

I wonder what Loews Hotel thinks about the fact that their new hotel is going to be right next to a nightclub that will cause rowdiness, cruising, and traffic right outside their doors. Maybe the CEO of Loews would be interested in receiving some of the AJC articles that put the former Vision Nightclub in the paper. Crime, shootings.

Loews is a luxury brand and their target market is not the hip hop crowd, but rather more like the type of person that would stay at the Ritz Carlton.

So, if both, Vision and the Peachtree Streetcar show up on Peachtree Street, it should be quite a mess on that part of Peachtree St. Between the traffic, cruising brought on by Vision/Compound and the streetcar taking up one lane on both sides of the street, what a mess.

How wide is Peachtree St again?

#13

I am a Midtown property owner and taxpayer residing at 800 Peachtree Street, #404, where I have owned a condo since 2002. I strongly oppose the application of Vision/SPI Club. The previous incarnation of the club proved to be irresponsible neighbors. Midtown best embodies "city living" in the way that Atlanta planners intend. The area has improved greatly in the past couple of years, and that is likely related to the decrease in clubs like Vision. Please do not allow our neighborhood to regress. Please DENY Vision's application for a liquor license.

#14

CLUB VISION (aka the new club SPI") - a huge nightclub that already has a history of crime and violence - is poised to re-open on 11th and Peachtree. It will only take away from the comfort and security we feel in this beloved neighborhood. Those of us taxpayers who live, work, or enjoy any extracurricular activities in Midtown dread this reappearance of cruising, more traffic, loud noise and crime in the Midtown area. Please help us keep Club VISION (aka "SPI") from reopening – any way you can. I have written the Mayor to request she deny their liquor license.

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This applicant (Michael Gidewon of Club VISION, aka "SPI") is well known to Midtown residents. This applicant should be denied the license, as he has an established track record of insensitivity and non-compliance with community concerns and local ordinances with his former Club VISION location (now 1010 Midtown, directly across from the new Loews Hotel). In addition (as noted at the Aug. 11 neighborhood zoning meeting), he admitted to illegally building out the interior of the new club space without the proper paper-work from the city.

During the years Club VISION was open on Peachtree and 11th Streets, Midtown residents and visitors experienced thundering noise from cruising cars – noise that relentlessly pounded windows and prevented normal conversation and restful sleep – illegal parking, patrons clogging the sidewalks, littering, public urination and shootings.

Our public safety agencies were overwhelmed and could not (nor did not) police the area in any way that served as a deterrent. At best, they were reactive, and woefully lacking in that. The more Club VISION defied public ordinances, the more emboldened they became – and the community became numb as a result of the continuous inaction by authorities.

To have Club VISION, aka "SPI," return to Midtown is to invite misery into the "Miracle of Midtown." The approval of this establishment is profoundly inconsistent with the vision we all have embraced as Midtown residents and business owners: The Club's reappearance would lead to crime, disinvestment and impairment of the reputation that we have all spent years building.

#15

I'm a resident at 12th Street Commons condominiums at 12th and Piedmont. I have lived in this location for over 10 years. I love living in the city and I frequent a lot of the restaurants and bars in my neighborhood.

However, I was never a fan of the Vision nightclub. Besides grid-locking the traffic along Peachtree every weekend, the patrons of this club would drive up and down 12th Street late at night, looking for parking and blaring their music. The base would be so loud my windows would rattle in their panes and wake me out of a dead sleep.

Almost every weekend, I would catch people parking illegally in our parking lot. If I didn't catch them or if they parked on the street in front of our building, I'd hear them walking back out to their cars between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m., making noise, turning up their base, urinating on the side of our building and occasionally getting into fights. When Vision finally closed down, there was a significant decrease in the street noise at night along 12th Street and people parking illegally in our lot.

This new nightclub only offers less than 300 parking spaces for the projected 750 cars

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expected to show up every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. I know living in the city, you have to make some concessions in parking, but I don't think it's fair that our relatively quiet neighborhood streets should have to absorb the parking for this late night club.

I don't understand why anyone would think that this club is a good addition to Midtown. This club was nothing but a problem to the neighborhood before and it looks like the owners are trying to pull the same shenanigans. I've attended a couple of the neighborhood meetings already and the owners don't seem like they're really addressing any of the traffic, parking and crime issues revolving around this club. Why should they care? They are only in this venture to make money. They don't care about the community.

Please do what you can to keep this club from reopening in Midtown.

#16

As a new resident of Midtown I must express my disapproval of the SPI Club (formerly known as "Vision"). I moved to the city in 2005 and in recent years have seen the great and positive changes to Midtown and the Midtown Mile. My graduate studies were the reason for my move however, upon completion of my studies, I decided to stay because of the wonderful renaissance our city leadership has spurred. I specifically moved into Midtown 3 months ago, and became a member of the Midtown Alliance, because I want to experience this progress, witness the metamorphosis of Peachtree St., and become a long-term resident of the Midtown Mile.

As an architect and urban designer, I feel this club would be a detriment to progress that has been made and to the future development of the neighborhood. The lack of proposed parking, the traffic congestion that it will cause, the cruising that will ensue (despite any signage that may disallow it), the vagrancy that will occur... these are but a few of the many reasons to not permit SPI Club, or any club, along the Midtown Mile.

In the past, I visited Vision and do not feel that it's return to Midtown is a positive thing. I believe the conduct of the patrons it draws will cause a drastic decline in the safety of the neighborhood during its hours of operation. Shortly before its closing, I had a friend badly beaten by multiple patrons. My friend spent multiple weeks in the ICU recovering from skull fractures, internal brain injuries, broken ribs and, a broken leg. After the ICU, he was in a wheelchair for several more weeks.

The SPI club is the type of establishment that would reverse the progress already made in Midtown. With such a reversal, future progress will be a futile effort. The dream of the Midtown Alliance and the Midtown Mile will suffer and, residents, like myself, will seek new places to live.

#17

As a resident of Midtown, I am very concerned at the prospect of a new nightclub, “SPI Club,” operated by Michael Gidewon, at 1027 Peachtree St . I urge you to deny the liquor license for this business for the following reasons:

- *According to 10-57 (1) “The applicant is of bad moral character or has a bad reputation in the community...”*: Hundreds of neighbors have shown up to local meetings to try to stop the opening of this club and thousands have signed a petition against it – all because Mr. Gidewon proved to be a bad neighbor when he previously operated Visions Nightclub in our community. He was unable or unwilling to mitigate the noise, traffic, litter, and crime (including drug activity, altercations and a shooting) that resulted from the operation of his club. Proposed plans for addressing these issues with the new club are insufficient and unclear, as the Midtown Neighbors Association and NPU-E have stated. I fear for the safety of myself and my family should this club re-open two blocks from our condominium.
- *According to 10-57 (4) “The applicant as a previous holder of a license to sell alcoholic beverages, has violated any law, regulation or ordinance relating to that business within a five year period immediately preceding the date the application is heard by the license review board.”* Mr. Gidewon has already violated city ordinances by conducting renovation work on the buildings without a building permit or SAP. His lawyer and architect claim they were “repairing broken windows”, but the work is clearly more substantial than this. This situation demonstrates that Mr. Gidewon is not honest and cannot be trusted to keep his promises regarding plans for the mitigation of noise, traffic, litter, and crime from his club.
- *SPI Club would damage all that Midtown has worked so hard to accomplish.* The city has had a vision for a vibrant urban community that is just now coming to fruition. Many have worked hard for years to attract new businesses and developers, and the city has invested heavily in street-scaping to make the area attractive and inviting. Having lived in NY, Boston, LA and London, I was at first reluctant to move to “small town” Atlanta; however, when I discovered the developments in Midtown, I was won over by the quality of life / work / play offered in the community. It is a pleasure to be able to walk to restaurants, parks, reputable clubs and lounges (such as those at the W Hotel) and arts venues, but the introduction of a club of the scale and reputation of SPI Club would deter me from walking to the many new establishments that are just beginning to flourish in Midtown.

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Finally, if you DO decide to ignore the pleas of so many residents and business operators in the area and proceed to grant a license to this club, I urge you to stipulate that ALL PROPOSED PLANS for traffic control, queuing, security, noise abatement and litter control are CONSISTENTLY UPHeld by the operator or else the license would be REVOKED. I fear all such plans set forth by Mr. Gidewon and his legal counsel are just proposals designed to “tick the boxes” and will be quickly disregarded once the club opens. The city needs to be able to monitor the club’s operations and quickly act to shut the club down if it becomes a nuisance and a danger, as in the past.

#18

I have read the email below and support fully support the action of the Keep Midtown Safe organization and their initiative to help keep Midtown safe by challenging businesses who do not respect their neighbors. I intend to follow and attend the upcoming meetings and would hope that City officials will listen to the residents who are most impacted by this action. Please oppose this business and support the residents and voters who live and work in Midtown and the surrounding areas.

#19

I am a new resident, taxpayer and owner of a condo near the proposed vision nightclub. I am very much opposed to the opening of a club with a history of promoting violent activity and noise. I am a professor and need peace and quiet to do my work at home.

Having such a large night club would do serious damage to the community and might force me to move even at a loss of my home value. I have enjoyed my community here in Midtown - a diverse, generally safe and vibrant place welcoming to all races and beliefs. Midtown and Piedmont Park are the beating heart of Atlanta. Allowing Vision its liquor license or approving its establishment in this community would strike a blow to Midtown and be a great detriment to Atlanta.

#20

Please note that as a resident living in Midtown, I am completely against the approval of a liquor license for the SPI Club (formerly known as 'Vision'). Since moving to Atlanta 13 years ago, I've seen the city make some great progressive changes. I moved onto Peachtree Street in Midtown 3 months ago because of the these changes. I wouldn't have considered that move a few years ago. Kudos to the city leadership for creating the vision and direction that makes Midtown a great place to live.

I've seen the previous 'Vision' nightclub firsthand and DO NOT want it reopened in Midtown. I have a personal friend that was beaten so badly inside Vision that he spent 6 weeks in the ICU recovering from skull fractures, broken ribs, and a fractured leg.

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This is the opposite direction we need in Midtown. The 'Miracle Mile' vision cannot successfully coexist with this club. The future of the neighborhood depends on you stopping this establishment.

#21

I am a 5 year resident at Peachtree Walk, and enjoy all that Midtown has to offer, including the nightlife restaurants. If it wasn't for these establishments, I would not live here, however there needs to be limits as to what is brought into the neighborhood. I am not as concerned with the club itself, but more so for the surrounding neighborhood, and the people that the club will bring to it. As far as I am concerned, if people want to shoot each other inside the club, let them, I know that I will never go there, but when that danger spills out into the street, I have a problem.

When Vision was here previously, every weekend, signs littered the telephone poles and access ramps, advertising the latest Rap Album being released. Every Friday, as I pulled on to the 14th street bridge from 75 south, people were pinning signs to the fence along the roadway, and this continued into my neighborhood. Nightly I would walk down Peachtree walk, taking down the signs that people stapled to the trees that were meant to beautify the street. One night while doing so, an off duty police officer on the corner of Peachtree Walk and 12th street 'warned me' that I could get shot for taking those signs down.

I am certain that the club will not take responsibility for this, so the accountability will fall on you, Mayor Franklin.

That is my 'Vision' of what is to come, if we let this club into our neighborhood. It will be the collapse of Midtown.

#22

I am writing to ask that you deny Michael Gidewon's application for a liquor license for the SPI Club in Midtown. Gidewon has not proved himself a responsible neighbor (at least as a nightclub operator in residential neighborhoods), his patrons have not proved themselves to be considerate neighbors in residential neighborhoods, and the City has not proved itself equipped to handle the burden of special challenges created by placing a large nightclub in a residential area.

I am a resident of the Palmer & Phelan condominium, 1/10th of a mile from SPI Club. The quality of life in my complex and in dozens of buildings, new and old, in this section of Midtown will be severely compromised by SPI Club. All in Midtown wish the neighborhood to be vibrant, which includes having nightlife venues, but not places run by operators insensitive to neighbors, such as the Gidewons; not places as large as SPI Club; and not places with the parking problems of SPI Club.

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For more information on this matter, and before making any decisions please consult a very helpful dossier of material compiled by the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance, at: <http://www..Midtownponce.org/news/spi.pdf>.

#23

I own two units in the historic Palmer house right behind the Margaret Mitchell building. And, for reasons explicitly stated on this email am in disbelief that the city would consider giving a liquor license to Michael Gidewon, the prior owner of Vision. Our entire neighborhood is opposed to this. We do not want this club in the new Midtown! Please help put a stop to this immediately!

#24

A long range Master Plan for Midtown was formed by the City of Atlanta that we, the present Mid Town Residents and Businesses , considered when we made our decisions to live and invest in the area. The referenced application is not consistent with this plan, not only in its use but in its size and location.

The division of the premises into two establishments is clearly a subterfuge to the intent of the zoning and the Master Plan. The applicant's former business' performance with regard to unruly crowds that have been involved in violations of the law and with traffic and safety issues reinforces the applicant's inconsistency with a Master Plan that promised a Peachtree Street comparable to Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Additionally, the applicant's ongoing actions with regard construction on the premises without authority or permits and his attitude with towards the application process combined with the above stated subterfuge and past problematic performances are clear portents of what we can expect with SPI and its place in the area as a business and a neighbor.

In consideration of the above, these writers believe that the application for The SPI Night Club and Lounge to be located at 1021 and 1029 Peachtree Street be denied and we strongly encourage the Committee and Licensure Boards to deny them any Liquor License.

#25

VISION -- a huge nightclub that already has a history of crime and violence -- is poised to re-open on 11th and Peachtree. It will only take away from the comfort and security we feel in this beloved neighborhood.

Those of us who live, work, or enjoy any extracurricular activities in Midtown dread this reappearance of cruising, more traffic, loud noise, and crime in the Midtown area.

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Please help us keep Vision Nightclub from reopening by **denying** their liquor license.

#26

I live near the location of this proposed establishment, a member of the Cotting Court community on Peachtree Place. I applaud your work, and that of our other government officials and neighborhood advocates, in helping to create and preserve the economic and branding impact that we all want. Regrettably, the re-emergence of SPI CLUB (Vision) is a significant threat to all of that, including property values, pedestrian traffic, and neighborhood safety.

The applicant and his style of business is well known to us. Consequently we do not need to give this application the benefit of the doubt, because we have an established track record of insensitivity and non-compliance with community concerns and local ordinances at the former Vision location (now 1010 directly across from Loews).

Let me portray that experience to you as prelude to the future if we are unsuccessful in blocking this action. Rather than talk in terms of “traffic congestion” and “safety,” we experienced thundering noise that relentlessly pounded windows and prevented normal conversation and restful sleep, cruising and cursing and public urination, thugs loitering on the sidewalks and in the shadows -- and bullets occasionally flying through the air. Our public safety agencies were overwhelmed and could not and did not police the area in any way that served as a deterrent... at best, they were reactive and woefully lacking in that. Like the “broken window” syndrome, the more Vision defied ordinance the more emboldened they became – and the community became numb as a result of continuous inaction by authorities.

To have this applicant return to this part of Midtown -- the jewel of residents, merchants and hotels -- is to invite misery into the “Miracle of Midtown.” The approval of this establishment is profoundly inconsistent with the vision we have all embraced as Midtown residents and business owners, as it would lead to crime, disinvestment, and impairment of the reputation that we have spent years building.

As a homeowner living one block from the Margaret Mitchell House, know that I am personally committed to influencing this decision... and as former Association President of Cotting Court, I can assure you that my extreme concern is shared by many.

Our request is for you to deny this application. We need no more evidence of the damage this establishment would bring to this special place, and any approval of this application would not only be profoundly unpopular, it would be irrational.

I join with 1,300 other individuals who have signed a petition in strong opposition to this application asking you to be visible and vocal in staking a stand for decency and

Letters from Midtown residents opposing the re-opening of Vision (now known as SPI).

responsibility. I ask that you become informed and involved now, before this matter becomes far more consequential for us all. And please let me know if a private conversation with you might be useful.

#27

I live near the location of this proposed establishment, a member of the Cotting Court community on Peachtree Place. I applaud your work, and that of our other government agencies and neighborhood advocates, in helping to create and preserve the economic and branding impact that we all want. Regrettably, the re-emergence of SPI CLUB (Vision) is a significant threat to all of that, including property values, pedestrian traffic, and neighborhood safety.

The applicant and his style of business is well known to us. Consequently we do not need to give this application the benefit of the doubt, because we have an established track record of insensitivity and non-compliance with community concerns and local ordinances at the former Vision location (now 1010 directly across from Loews).

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#28

Letters from Midtown residents opposing the re-opening of Vision (now known as SPI).

I am a home owner in Midtown, residing at The Dakota. This is a vibrant and wonderful community which can be destroyed by a few.

The petition to open Spi by Michael Gidewon must be denied. He has a terrible record for ignoring community value. His past record of club ownership, Vision, with loud music, cruising and inadequate parking, and a fatal shooting speaks to the kind of business man he is. Why give him the privilege of operating a club in a wonderful section of Atlanta that brings many talented and proud people? Midtown can survive very well without this kind of business. With his kind of record this neighborhood property owner would vote NOT to take another chance and risk quality of life enjoyed by many.

Please deny Michael Gidewon a license to open Spi.

#29

I am opposed to the permitting for Club Vision...or any other name they choose to give the club... at the 1021-1029 Peachtree Street location because of the following concerns as expressed by my Midtown association.

History with ownership – This is the same ownership group that operated Club Vision at 1010 Peachtree and Compound on Brady Avenue west of Midtown. In both cases, the lack of help from the ownership to address serious community concerns adversely affected the surrounding area. Given this kind of history with the two clubs, the MPSA does not believe they will be good neighbors.

Traffic - The club intends to occupy 16,000 square feet, and would likely hold upwards of 1200 patrons. This, in turn, would inevitably generate severe traffic disruptions in an already congested area from club-goers and others who would frequent the area. The limos would clog traffic on Peachtree Street as it did before. The owners have not submitted any viable plans to alleviate any traffic issues.

Parking – The area around 11th & Peachtree offers very limited parking, and the owners have not submitted any realistic plans to handle the number of cars expected. This can only create a ‘cruising’ situation negatively affecting traffic patterns, compounded by an extreme volume of club patrons parking illegally all around the neighborhood. The expected nightly number of patrons is 1200-1500.

This makes the specter of Vision’s return all the worse given that many people would be vying for the same (just under) 300 parking spaces we told you about earlier.

Noise issues – Given the history with the above mentioned clubs, we can reasonably expect excessive noise from three sources.

- First, the music and patrons inside the club will produce a tremendous amount of noise which would not be contained by the building.

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- Second, the queue, or line of people waiting to get in the club, is expected to extend several blocks and will be outside and filled with loud patrons.
- Third, the traffic and cruising around the area is often done with windows rolled down and loud music blaring. Given the residential and business development in the area this noise will result in increasing tension between residents / businesses and club patrons.

Litter – In the past, the patrons visiting the club and waiting in the queue have produced a large amount of litter which was not normally cleaned up by Club staff in a timely manner.

Security – An operation of this size would tremendously drain police resources at a time when the APD is already short-handed. The 911 calls coming from this location would be pulling patrolling officers from other areas of the neighborhood with the end result being less protection for Midtown residents. ***The owners have promised to hire between 10 and 40 off-duty police officers and other security personnel to work around the building - Why would we want a business in our midst requiring such an intensive level of security on an ongoing basis?***

At the past clubs of this ownership group, police have been called multiple times to break up fights, handle drug related issues, and a shooting. The owners have not submitted a viable plan to deal with security issues.

I became a resident of Midtown in 1998 and over the last 11 years have been generally pleased to see the changes that have taken place in my neighborhood.

I have recently become aware of the opening of the SPI Club by the former owners of Vision nightclub and am greatly concerned about the impact that business will have on the quality of life for Midtown residents. I attended an NPU-E meeting where the building design and business concept was presented. I was alarmed at the proposal which potentially would increase traffic, street litter, noise pollution, crime, and transient visitors to the neighborhood.

This business is almost universally opposed by residents and other Midtown businesses. I am strongly urging the mayor and the LRB to reject the requested building permit and liquor licence for this establishment.

Thank you for your consideration.

#30

I do not typically write to express my opinions about local zoning / city ordinances but feel it important to express my opposition to the proposed opening of the nightclub Spi, as will be owned by Michael Gidewon.

Letters from Midtown residents opposing the re-opening of Vision (now known as SPI).

I have been a proud member of Midtown for a number of years, including those when its predecessor Vision Club was open. I have attended a number of public meetings where the Spi owners have discussed their plans and have had an opportunity to address public concerns.

Based on their responses as well as my experience in their past history, I think the neighborhood would be severely damaged by the new club. I cite the following reasons:

Uncontrolled Traffic – With the large number of guests expected (majority not from Midtown), Peachtree and surrounding streets simply cannot handle the additional stress. Parking is grossly inadequate as well.

Safety Concerns – There was considerable cause for concern when Vision was open a number of years ago, specifically for its patrons, as violence sharply increased in the neighborhood. In addition, drunk driving, grossly intoxicated patrons, and negligence to oncoming traffic jeopardize not only the safety of current residents but also that of the very patrons Spi will be serving.

Hurts Midtown's Economy – The neighborhood has dramatically changed over the past 5 years and now includes luxury condominiums and Class A rental property. I do not believe Spi would add significant value and, in fact, will scare other high-end retailers and developers to Midtown. With increased traffic and crime, I feel like property values will decrease and the atmosphere of Midtown hurt.

I ask that you oppose the opening of this establishment in the interests of current residents, unsuspecting Spi patrons, and the general Midtown neighborhood. In particular, I think Spi's request for a liquor license should be revoked.

Thank you for listening to my complaints and concerns with Spi Club.

#31

Please OPPOSE the liquor license of Spi Club, Inc., 1021- 1029 Peachtree Street, Owner Michael Gidewon.

This soon to be 19K+ mega club that will attract thousands of people into Midtown on a nightly basis : PLEASE NOTE: A NIGHTLY BASIS. Patrons, cruisers, and trouble finders who will reek havoc a mile plus radius of this club creating a noise level higher than the clubs, graffiti, trash, posters and damage to private property in their wake.

Letters from Midtown residents opposing the re-opening of Vision (now known as SPI).

The history with Vision and their other clubs by these owners prove that they ARE NOT COMPATIBLE with Midtown and the "Midtown Mile" nor that of other neighborhoods.

The fact that traffic from the club will extend far from the club itself has not even been dealt with in the MNA LPC recommendations.

I have lived in Midtown for 9 years and am very saddened that MNA feels that a club the size of SPI will benefit the Midtown Blueprint.

PS: I live at 1075 Peachtree Walk NE. Right next to the original club Vision. I've seen it all.

#32

I attended the Midtown Neighbors' Association License & Permits Committee meeting last night at Park Tavern concerning the application for the new SPI (Vision) nightclub and lounges.

I didn't have a chance to speak last night so I wanted to email you with my concerns. First, please let me state that I OPPOSE these two establishments.

- in addition to the comments that were made last night regarding safety, trash and what recourse do we have if the owner does not follow through with all their promises?
- I have owned a condo in Midtown (5th and Peachtree Street) for almost 5 years now so I have witnessed the collateral damage of the old Vision nightclub
- when the old Vision nightclub was open the traffic on Fridays and especially Saturday nights was horrible in Midtown, even around 5th street and further south due to this club
- it doesn't make sense that an Assembly facility of over 20,000 square feet would only require 40 spaces that the lawyer mentioned last night (I am an architect)
- The security personnel they plan to hire will not help outside of the immediate vicinity of the nightclub and lounge
- The hours will run too late, 3 am was mentioned - how are people supposed to stay sane, let alone sleep when the lounge is operating that late especially during the week?
- It was mentioned that the nightclub portion would only be open 2 nights per week. Why would we want a business on Peachtree Street that has a CLOSED facade 5 days per week? I believe that goes against the Midtown's vision of a lively, thriving, live-work-play environment.