



TODD KAMINSKY
Assemblyman 20th District
Nassau County

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October 27, 2015

Mr. Vincent G. Bradley, Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 S. Swan Street, 9th Floor
Albany, New York 12210-8002

Dear Chairman Bradley,

I am writing to strongly oppose Starbucks' recent application for a license from the New York State Liquor Authority ("NYSLA") to serve alcohol in its branch in the City of Long Beach. The Starbucks in my community is a safe haven for teenagers and families who wish to socialize in an alcohol-free environment. I urge you to deny the license for Starbucks to serve alcohol in order to protect the safety and integrity of the Long Beach community.

Teenagers are constantly bombarded with negative messages and peer pressure, especially in relation to substance abuse. Starbucks is one of the few public establishments in Long Beach that is strictly free of alcohol and, as such, provides a safe environment for youth to gather. The image of a student attempting to study physics next to a raucous group of adults drinking beer is a disturbing one. Further, Starbucks is located directly next to the Long Beach Public Library, which is another safe haven. Introducing alcohol consumption in such close proximity to the Library would be a step in the wrong direction, as we should be expanding the number of such safe places, not reducing them. Moreover, if Starbucks were granted a liquor license and then vacated the premise, the community could also be stuck with a bar, or worse, on this beautiful corner property that abuts the Public Library and City Hall. Finally, Long Beach is not lacking in establishments where alcohol is sold and consumed. There are numerous businesses directly across the street from Starbucks and almost 90 such outlets total within the 3.5 square-mile radius of this City.

It is also worth noting that this proposal for a liquor license does not have support from important community organizations. Long Beach AWARE, a coalition to prevent underage drinking, and the Long Beach Central Council Parent Teacher Association have expressed strong opposition to Starbucks' application. I urge you to listen to the voices of community leaders, elected officials and residents by not granting a liquor license to Starbucks in the City of Long Beach. With the safety of our children on the line, this proposal must be stopped. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,

Todd Kaminsky
Member of Assembly