

From: gloria ruff <gruff55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Patrick Lyp
Subject: liquor license

Dear Mr Lyp,

I saw the article in the Northwest Indiana Times this morning about the liquor license process coming up at a city council meeting on April 16th. As a community member from District 3, I would like to say that I think the license should be awarded to Le Bon Brasserie. I know that four applications have been received and that the four will be reviewed at the meeting where applicants will make a presentation.

I would just like to give my opinion on which restaurant I think should receive the license. I am all in favor of the Le Bon Brasserie. This new French restaurant would be filling an empty space in a building downtown which would make the downtown look more prosperous. I think a new French restaurant would bring people into Valpo from surrounding areas for a fine meal as well as be popular with locals. Something new and different would be just the thing to enliven an already pretty lively downtown (except during the pandemic).

Thank you for reading my message and taking into consideration my thoughts. I appreciate it and all you do for the city of Valparaiso.

Take care,
Gloria Ruff
1308 Parkway Ct.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

From: Bill Durnell <bill@billdurnell.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:37 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas
Cc: Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Downtown Alcoholic Beverage License

Members of City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Le Bon to be awarded the latest and last available downtown liquor license. My support for Le Bon's proposal is based on two key factors: (1) Le Bon's application objectively scores highest on the merits of the City's own previously published guidelines for awarding such licenses and (2) the owners of the building where Le Bon would be located experienced steep financial losses from the impacts of COVID on their previous tenant, Sage Restaurant, who previously held the now available license. Unlike restaurant owners or other operating businesses, building owners received no direct support or stimulus from the various government COVID relief programs in the past year.

The City of Valparaiso established a 19-point set of guidelines to set out its values and criteria to be considered when awarding the downtown liquor licenses. These guidelines cover various concerns from the corporate condition and financial strength of the applicant, to their experience operating restaurants and serving their communities, as well as the impact the proposed investment would have on the downtown area and local job market. While each applicant scores points on this scale, Le Bon's proposal, I believe, clearly demonstrates the strongest adherence to the overall guidelines. The Le Bon applicants are financially strong and have direct experience running an upscale restaurant with their Arcadia concept in Michigan City, Indiana. And with Le Cordon Bleu-trained Chef Dudley Nieto at the helm in the kitchen, they would add a new and unique upscale, French cuisine to downtown Valpo. Their proposed investment is significant and would not only enhance the downtown Valpo streetscape and breadth of dining choices but also would create new jobs to help the City's hard-hit service industry recover from its pandemic losses.

The building owners at 157 Lincolnway, the location where Le Bon would be located, are themselves long-time, Valparaiso residents and business owners. They have invested not only in the restaurant building but also in the adjacent buildings on either side. According to county records, they pay real estate taxes of more than \$22,000 per year across these properties. With the devastating effects of COVID-19 on restaurants generally and their previous tenant, Sage, in particular, they have already lost at least a year's worth of rental income. Awarding Sage's, now available, license to another applicant, especially considering that their hand-picked successor's application is superior on the merits, would not only unnecessarily and unfairly delay the building owners' economic recovery, but could also tarnish the business climate for other potential investors in the future.

In a memo announcing this latest round of applications, the City offered potential applicants the following advice: "Although any restaurant concept will be considered, the Committee is interested in concepts that are not currently available in Valparaiso and would add to the overall diversity of food offerings in the downtown." I personally watched the live-stream of the Valparaiso Downtown Alcoholic Beverage License Committee meeting wherein each of the four applicants first presented their cases. When taken in their entirety and compared against the clearly stated intentions, goals, and criteria of the City of Valparaiso, there is, to me, one applicant that leads the pack — Le Bon.

Thank you in advance for your careful and independent consideration!

Very best regards,
Bill Durnell

April 20, 2021

Dear Members of the Valparaiso City Council,

It has come to my attention that you will be voting next Monday, April 26, to award a downtown liquor license to one of four different restaurants. I would like to strongly throw my support behind LeBon, the proposed French restaurant where "Sage" previously operated.

I believe French cuisine would be a fantastic addition to the downtown restaurant scene. Adding this sort of restaurant will definitely mark us as a cultural destination along with all the other fabulous restaurants we already have.

Please vote for LeBon at the next city council meeting.

With appreciation,

Ellen Kapitan

From: Theresa <tnicksic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:34 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Please Vote for LeBon!

Dear Members of the City Council,

It has come to my attention that you will be voting next Monday to award a downtown liquor license to one of four different restaurants. I would like to strongly throw my support behind LeBon, the proposed French restaurant.

How exciting to have a French restaurant in Valparaiso when there is not another one in Indiana for over 150 miles. The closest one I am aware of is in Chicago and even those are not plentiful. I believe this would be a fantastic addition to the downtown restaurant scene as well as an obvious draw for people who live outside of our city. Adding this sort of restaurant will definitely mark us as a cultural destination along with all the other fabulous restaurants we already have.

I can already taste how good this restaurant is going to be!

Please vote for LeBon at the next city council meeting.

With appreciation,

Theresa Nicksic

2106 William Dr

Valpo

From: Chella bug <chellabug@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:13 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen

Dear Members of the City Council,

You will be voting next Monday, April 26th to award a downtown liquor license. I would like to ask that you vote for the proposed French restaurant; LeBon. This would be a refreshing addition to our dining experiences since the exit of Bon Femme.

Sincerely, MiChelle Stump

From: Melissa Griffin <melissa@indigoinkdesigns.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:00 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Vote for Culture & Diversity!

Dear Members of the City Council,

It has come to my attention that you will be voting next Monday to award a downtown liquor license to one of four different restaurants. I would like to strongly throw my support behind LeBon, the French restaurant petitioning to go into the Sage space.

Adding a French restaurant to our city certainly will increase the diversity of options we have. As far as I know there is not another restaurant of that style anywhere in Northwest Indiana so it would be unique to our city. Being a resident of the downtown neighborhood, I certainly would hate to see an empty space on Lincolnway, especially so close to the heart of the city - City Hall, and the Pavilion area. I believe this would be a fantastic addition to the downtown restaurant scene as well as an obvious draw for people who live outside of our city. Adding this sort of restaurant will definitely mark us as a cultural destination along with all the other fabulous restaurants we already have.

LeBon has already hired local talent to create a brand identity, as well as a collaboration in envisioning the space brought to life through branded messaging and interior design. Hiring a regional chef to develop this exciting new concept in our town as well as hiring and training other locals in French cuisine is a great asset to our community.

Please vote for LeBon at the next city council meeting.

With appreciation,

--

Melissa Griffin
INDIGO INK DESIGNS

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www.IndigoInkDesigns.com

From: Kimberly Patton <kp4tton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 7:24 AM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: LeBon restaurant and liquor license

Dear Members of the Valparaiso City Council,

I understand you will be voting this Monday to award a downtown liquor license to one of four different restaurants. I strongly support awarding a liquor license to LeBon, the proposed French restaurant, in the former Sage restaurant location.

Before the pandemic, my family and I ate out at least a couple of times a week. During the pandemic we have transitioned to take-out service and thoughtfully supported our local restaurants, almost exclusively those in Valpo. We focused on locally owned restaurants and avoided national chains. We believe in supporting our local businesses as much as possible and look forward to dining out again very soon. LeBon proposes a unique dining experience with a French theme, which to my knowledge, is unique in the Region and surrounding area for at least 150 miles in Indiana. The closest one I am aware of is in Chicago but I much prefer supporting our local restaurants and businesses. Additionally, this new restaurant will create jobs here in the Region and generate tax revenue. I also think that because of the unique LeBon dining experience and menu, it will draw people who live outside of our area. Adding this sort of restaurant will definitely strengthen our reputation area as a cultural destination along with all the other fabulous restaurants and attractions we already have. Plus, empty space never reflects well on the economic health of a community.

Please vote for LeBon at the next city council meeting - it seems like an easy decision to me.

Kind regards,

Kimberly and Curtis Michael Patton
Valparaiso, IN

From: judith barnett <judithvalrs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:53 AM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; cschmidt@valop.us; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas
Cc: Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: LaBon Restaurant

Dear Members of the City Council,

It has come to my attention that you will be voting next Monday to award a downtown liquor license to one of four different restaurants. I would like to strongly throw my support behind LeBon, the proposed French restaurant.

How exciting to have a French restaurant in Valparaiso when there is not another one in Indiana for over 150 miles. The closest one I am aware of is in Chicago and even there they are not plentiful. I believe this would be a fantastic addition to the downtown restaurant scene as well as an obvious draw for people who live outside of our city. Adding this sort of restaurant will definitely mark us as a cultural destination along with all the other fabulous restaurants we already have.

I can already taste how good this restaurant is going to be!

Please vote for LeBon at the next city council meeting.

With appreciation

Judith Barnett
Valparaiso resident

From: Kim Tomkiewicz <kim.tomkiewicz@valpo.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 6:14 AM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: In support of LeBon

Dear Members of the City Council -

I write to pledge my support towards LeBon, a new French restaurant in downtown Valparaiso.

While our city has many restaurants, they have become generic and rather vulgar; seeming to exist not to promote an appreciation of fine cooking and baking, but rather an indulgence of loud music, televisions, and garish food and drinks that are made only to post on social media. This is not the type of establishment that many of us who live in, and around, our city are interested in patronizing.

Years ago, Maria Elena's provided our city an old world escape from the harshness of daily life. That legacy is gone. The type of establishment where you would celebrate engagements, rejoice in lives lived and passed, and most importantly, partake in a carefully prepared meal that was meant to nourish and provide joy to the customers, as well as the cooks. Our restaurants have, unfortunately, turned to the beer, pizza, and burger crowd without a backwards glance.

LeBon will not only give a respectable and high dining experience to our community, but it will have the allure of being the only French restaurant outside of Chicago. This is what our community should be known for - quality over quantity and flash.

It is my strong determination LeBon should be given all the tools to prosper and to do so, be awarded the appropriate liquor license. How else are we diners to enjoy our meal without an appropriate cocktail - Le Forum, a Libertine, or the more commonly known, French 75?

The pandemic will take years to recover from as a society. Many who are concerned about their well-being, and that of those who serve them at dining establishments, do not take our social responsibilities lightly. Only with the addition of LeBon - a dining experience and not just overpriced fast food - will those of us with disposable income and social connections be motivated to "Dine Out Valpo" for a purpose that feeds our soul.

Sincerely -
Kimberly Jana Tomkiewicz

Kimberly Jana Tomkiewicz, MA, MALS
Academic Advisor and Capstone Coordinator
MSIT Programs and Certificates
Department of Computing and Information Sciences
Board Secretary for Indiana Academic Advising Network
NACADA Region Five Member-at-Large
kim.tomkiewicz@valpo.edu

From: Scott Saporiti <scottsaporiti67@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 9:28 AM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Please vote for the French restaurant/liquor license

Dear Members of the City Council,

Recently, we read in the paper that a new French restaurant is in the running for a downtown liquor license and we wanted to let you know how much we would appreciate the addition of such a concept. We both moved here from Illinois where we had access to diverse and curated restaurants from Naperville to Chicago. Valparaiso has diverse casual dining choices but so many of them fall short of offering that special evening out or fine dining and a French restaurant would be a wonderful addition.

We would very much like to enjoy a date night out, an evening with friends, or highlight a special occasion, with French culinary options, wine, and cocktails. Our out-of-town guests who already love our downtown area would be delighted as well!

We would like you to know we completely support adding a French restaurant to downtown Valparaiso. We hope you see fit to vote as such.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Mark Fesenmyer, M.D.
Scott Saporiti

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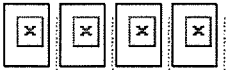
Scott Saporiti

Owner of Sapori Stationery and Sapori Designs

p: 815.543.1567

e: scottsaporiti67@gmail.com

2400 Nottingham Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383



From: Jane Schreiner <janeschreiner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 2:16 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Letter to the City Council on behalf of LeBon, a proposed French restaurant in Valparaiso

Dear members of Valparaiso City Council,

It has come to my attention that you will be voting on Monday, April 26th, to award a downtown liquor license to one of four restaurants in Valparaiso.

I would like to throw my support behind LeBon, a proposed French restaurant petitioning to go in the space formerly occupied by SAGE.

In my opinion, such a restaurant would be a great addition to our city and Northwest Indiana as well! A French restaurant would be less than French without a wine menu, so I hope that LeBon will be your choice to receive a license on Monday!

Thanks.

Jane Schreiner

From: Jane Schreiner <janeschreiner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 2:36 PM
To: dianalreed@comcast.net; Robert Cotton; Casey Schmidt; Jack Pupillo; Peter Anderson; Evan Costas; George Douglas; Patrick Lyp; Mike Jessen
Subject: Liquor License for LeBon, a new French restaurant in Valparaiso

Dear members of Valparaiso City Counsel,

You will, no doubt, have a difficult decision to make on Monday, April 26th, choosing which of several Valparaiso restaurants will receive a liquor license.

I would like to throw my support behind LeBon, a new FRENCH restaurant to be located where SAGE was previously. What a great addition to Valpo, as well as Northwest Indiana, a FRENCH restaurant would be! That kind of dining has been missing from our city for quite awhile and would likely attract diners from far and wide.

A FRENCH restaurant would be a few notches less than French without a great wine menu, so please cast your vote for LeBon.

Thanks!

Jane K Schreiner

From: Michelle Prosser <elementswinebar@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 9:24 AM

To: Patrick Lyp <PLyp@valpo.us>

Subject: Today's hearing

Patrick, I will not be attending today's hearing. The reason is that although I was not the recipient of the one available license, I understood the process. I always felt that Scarpe would be the restaurant that received the license due to the fact that according to the requirements set by the board, they were the only applicant who had met them at the time of the hearing. The fact that we are revisiting this now, after a decision has been made, is just confusing.

I had originally planned to attend, but due to the fact that I disagree with the decision to revisit this, I won't be there. Not that it matters, but I support the decision to give Scarpe the license. These kids have made one of the finest restaurants in Valpo at one of the most difficult times in history. They deserve this. I am not saying that everyone who applied is NOT deserving, but a choice was made, and it appears to have been made with fairness. Good luck today, and thank you for the opportunity.

Kind Regards,
Michelle Prosser
Owner, Elements Wine Bar



Dear Council Members and Liquor Permit Board,

As the Board of Directors for the *Valparaiso Restaurant Association*, we are 100 percent united in our endorsement for Scarpe to be granted the **Historic Liquor License**.

Scarpe is a valued member of our *Valparaiso Restaurant Association*. They attend every meeting and enthusiastically participate in every initiative and event created by the *Valparaiso Restaurant Association*. They are the ideal member and have earned the respect of our Restaurants.

Scarpe runs a very good operation and has proven that they are not "fly-by-night." The Shoemaker family invests back into the community and has been a cornerstone family business in Valparaiso for over eleven years.

The purpose of the license is to encourage investment by local owners with skin in the game. It is also meant to assure long-term commitment to the community.

For all the reasons stated above, the *Valparaiso Restaurant Association's* Board endorses Scarpe and the Shoemakers. We unanimously recommend that Scarpe be approved for this license.

Best Regards!

**Valparaiso Restaurant Association
Board of Directors**

Chris Pavlou- President
Paul Loduca- Liquor License Group Representative
Carlos Rivero
Sophie & Louie Kalafatis
Daniel Hwang Hui Wang
James Jano Janesheski