

Alderman Khalif J. Rainey: After one year of uncertainty, a win for the Amani neighborhood

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After a year of legal arguments, I am pleased to report that the City of Milwaukee was successful in its fight to help the Amani area residents take back their neighborhood.

This story begins in July 2018 - a year ago - when the Common Council's Licenses Committee voted to not renew the license for S&S Liquor Store, based on neighbors' objections. The store located at 3200 N. 27th Street was an on-going topic of discussion at neighborhood meetings. I heard multiple complaints about loitering, drug-dealing, and other bad behavior occurring at this location. In addition, the Milwaukee Police Department reported that a homicide occurred outside the store, and numerous liquor license violations were also on the books.

Neighbors and I had had enough, and my colleagues on the Council agreed.

The liquor store owners took the City to court, which was their right to do so. After multiple court hearings, injunctions, filings and procedures, the court ruled in favor of the City of Milwaukee, and the business has been ordered to close.

My thanks to Assistant City Attorney Tyrone St. Junior for his expertise in representing the City before the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, which ultimately led to this decision in our favor.

And thank you to all the Amani neighborhood residents who persisted in holding this establishment and the city accountable. By sharing information and connecting with me as your alderman and with your neighbors, we are able to move forward and work together to find and support a new business at this location that will enhance and add value to the Amani neighborhood.