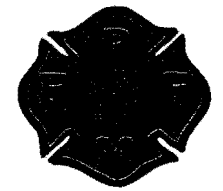




**NEWTON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**  
Local 863, IAFF AFL-CIO



RECEIVED  
Newton City Clerk  
2012 JAN 10 PM 5:59  
David A. Olson, CMC  
Newton, MA 02459

January 8, 2012

Newton Board of Aldermen  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton MA, 02459

RE: Land Use Committee

Dear Members of the Honorable Board,

We are writing this letter in support of Karl Roche's petition for a special permit at The West Street Bar & Grille.

It is unusual for the Newton Firefighters to get involved with matters such as this but the strong relationship that has been built with Karl Roche and the firefighters makes this a very easy decision. Since Karl has taken ownership of the establishment he has been a champion for and worked alongside the Newton Firefighters Associations. He has held several fundraisers for the Fighters and was a big contributor to the Jessica Locke Firefighters Equipment fundraiser which resulted in raising \$12,000. The money raised went to purchasing equipment that enhanced the safety of the firefighters and citizens of this city. He has partnered with the Newton Firefighters in contributing to the Boys and Girls club that has and hopefully will continue to have a profound impact on the children of this city. Most recently, when the Newton Firefighters traveled to the cities of Worcester and Peabody to honor the loss of two firefighters, Karl donated food and beverages to those who traveled. Clearly he recognizes, appreciates, and values the sacrifice and commitment the public safety officials make every day.

We are asking the Honorable Members of the Board to support the petition of Mr. Roche if not for the few reasons we have stated above, then to show that the city of Newton supports businesses that recognize the importance of investing in the community that they serve.

Thank you and Best Regards

Thomas Lopez  
President  
Newton Firefighters Association.