

**TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
TO OPPOSE
VITUS ENERGY LLC SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT FOR A LIQUOR PACKAGE
STORE AS PART OF A GAS STATION FACILITY
LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF MINNESOTA DRIVE
& WEST NORTHERN LIGHTS BOULEVARD**

Resolution #2021-3

WHEREAS, the Turnagain Community Council (TCC) is an all-volunteer, self-governing neighborhood organization recognized in the Municipality of Anchorage Charter; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, Vitus Energy LLC (Vitus Energy) has purchased the old Shell Station property at the corner of Minnesota Dr. and West Northern Lights Blvd. — and this is located within the Turnagain Community Council boundaries (and also directly borders on the Spenard Community Council boundaries to the east and south); and

WHEREAS, Cliff Brown, Vitus Energy Sr. Retail Operations Manager, reached out to TCC and attended via Zoom our November 5th, 2020, meeting to seek neighborhood input for the new gas station facility — including what other amenities would be desired by the neighborhood as part of the development; and multiple ideas were discussed, including a car wash, ice cream parlor, laundromat, dry cleaners, package liquor store, etc., but — while concerns were expressed regarding a liquor store — no formal action by TCC was taken at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2021, TCC was notified by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) that Vitus Energy has submitted an application for a “Special Land Use Permit for Alcohol—Not Beer/Wine ” at the Vitus Energy location at 1501 W. Northern Lights Blvd. (WNL), and that the Assembly will holding a public hearing on this Permit for Alcohol application on June 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the TCC Land Use Committee as well as a guest from Spenard Community Council discussed the Vitus Energy Permit for Alcohol application at its May 24th Zoom meeting, and identified numerous pros and cons with regard to locating a liquor package store at the Vitus Energy location within Turnagain, but did not take any formal position at the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the TCC Board met via Zoom at its May 26th, 2021, to set our June 3rd agenda, and as part of that meeting — while TCC welcomes Vitus Energy to the Turnagain neighborhood, appreciates the outreach to our Council, and looks forward to having an operating gas station facility that will provide multiple services to the surrounding neighborhood residents at this location — the TCC Board decided that TCC should consider taking a formal position with regard to the Permit for Alcohol application, as this is a serious request for TCC consideration because it is the first liquor package store that would be located within the TCC boundaries, and the Board voted 4 to 1 to recommend *opposition* to the application for the following reasons:

- The Vitus Energy liquor package store would be in close proximity to the West High/Romig Middle School campus, where numerous students walk past this location on the same side of Minnesota Dr. before and after school as well as at lunch time to go to Carrs/Safeway at the intersection of WNL & Minnesota Dr.; and

- There is already what many would consider an over concentration of liquor stores in close proximity (within one block) to the Vitus Energy location, including:
 - Brown Jug at WNL & Spenard Rd. (1203 WNL)
 - Oaken Keg at the Carrs/Safeway at WNL & Minnesota Dr. (1650 WNL)
 - Anchorage Wine House in the Z Plaza Strip Mall at Benson Blvd. & Minnesota Dr. (3020 WNL); and
- Unfortunately, for many years, there has been a steady presence of inebriates/potentially homeless/panhandlers at two intersections — southeast corner of WNL & Minnesota Dr., and northwest corner of Benson Blvd. & Minnesota Dr. — and they are in close proximity to the Vitus Energy location at the northwest corner of WNL & Minnesota Dr. — and pedestrian crossings at any of these high-traffic volume intersections can be unsafe — especially if these pedestrians are impaired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Turnagain Community Council **opposes the Vitus Energy LLC Special Land Use Permit for Alcohol at 1501 West Northern Lights Blvd.** — and requests that the Assembly **deny the application (Case No. 2021-54)**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if the Assembly votes to approve the Vitus Energy LLC Special Land Use Permit to allow a liquor package store at 1501 West Northern Lights Blvd. within the Turnagain Community Council boundaries, that the operator agrees to specific conditions, including limited hours of operation, limited types of liquor for sale, etc. — and that these conditions become part of the Vitus Energy LLC Special Land Use Permit for Alcohol.

RESOLUTION PASSED by the Turnagain Community Council on this day, Thursday, June 3, 2021, by a vote of YES - _____, NO - _____.

Cathy L. Gleason
Turnagain Community Vice President/Acting President

June 3, 2021