



2011 Residents' Association Inc.

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Philip Jamieson
Council Planning Officer
Cc: dasubmissions@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au,

**Re: Development Proposal D/2015/420 or FA/2015/92
Footway application for Sugarmill, 33-35 Darlinghurst Rd - extension to 11pm in
Springfield Mall**

I write on behalf of the members of the 2011 Residents Association. We support residents by working with all levels of government to improve our neighbourhood.

We write this letter to make strong objection to the above Development Application for the Sugarmill, Springfield Mall, for the following reasons:

1. Sugarmill sits partly in, and directly opposite, the densely residential Springfield Avenue, whose early 20th century apartment buildings were designed to provide ventilation through open, flow-through windows. Due to operating noise and noise from patrons in Sugarmill, residents in Springfield Avenue have to shut windows at night to reduce the impact of the noise, thus limiting the amount of fresh air and ventilation they can get. To extend the outdoor license of Sugarmill to 11pm nightly would further greatly impact on the peace, quiet, health and basic residential amenity of immediate Springfield Avenue residents
2. Sugarmill also sits in a State Government designated 'Liquor Freeze' area, which is designed to both limit the access to alcohol and reduce the number of drinkers in the area. Adding an extra 2 hours to the existing Sugarmill outdoor footpath license would negate the positive effects that have been created by the Liquor Freeze, and which are very noticeable and very much appreciated by local residents.
3. Since February 2014 Kings Cross has been under NSW Government legislation colloquially referred to as 'lockouts and last drinks'. These were introduced as a desperate measure to counter the out-of-control alcohol-related violence that had seen 2 horrific deaths in Kings Cross since 2012. The measures were initially viewed as controversial, but are now universally recognized by health and law-and-order experts as both moderate in their application but life saving in their impact. The residential community (at last Census approximately numbering 20,000 in the 2011 postcode) has embraced them wholeheartedly.

So to add 2 extra hours of outdoor drinking time, and with the ensuing extra drinkers, to the streets of Kings Cross *every night* would not just negate the spirit of the current legislation, but also potentially reverse the current downward trend in violence and assaults that the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research recently reported;

BOCSAR director Dr Don Weatherburn described the impact of the lockouts legislation in the 12 months since they were introduced as “dramatic” and said the drop in alcohol-related crime was “simply precipitous”, so why on earth would we even consider granting a DA that approved more drinking time in Kings Cross? If anything, their current outdoor license hours should be wound back.

4. Also of concern is the apparent lack of a Council Plan of Management for Springfield mall, which is a meeting place, a pedestrian crossroads, a busy thoroughfare, and is Council-owned land, yet it is being encroached upon by Sugarmill for an extra hours of public street trading. Is there a ‘Plan of Management’ for Springfield Plaza? Does it approve the impacts stated above in points 1-3? If there is a PoM, our Association and residents generally should be able to view and assess it, and this current DA should not be allowed to proceed without the PoM first being made available for public comment.

We remind the City of Sydney Council that we live in a mixed residential area and not an entertainment precinct, despite the best attempts by vested interests to make us believe otherwise. Our Association greatly supports our local shops, cafes, and restaurants that do not promote the ‘ugly’ side of the old Kings Cross. Kings Cross is already acknowledged by Council as being saturated with beer-barns, countless bars, clubs and other venues, a recipe that has been responsible for the inundation of our local area by drunks, and causing the proliferation of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour that has ultimately resulted in at least 2 fatalities since 2012.

We do not need more drinking hours in Kings Cross, and we therefore strongly urge you to refuse this DA.

Yours faithfully,

HELEN CROSSING
Convenor