



**MICHELE SMITH**  
ALDERMAN — 43RD WARD

**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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April 21, 2016

**RE: Community Meeting for Proposed Wine Bar at 1961 North Halsted Street**

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to invite you to join my office and the Lincoln Central Association at a community meeting to review a proposal to open a new wine bar at 1961 North Halsted Street. My office will be present at this meeting to monitor the discussion and record your feedback.

**WHAT: J9 Wine Bar proposal at 1961 North Halsted Street**  
**WHO: Hosted by Alderman Michele Smith and the Lincoln Central Association**  
**WHEN: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:00 PM**  
**WHERE: Newberry Math & Science Academy – School Auditorium  
700 West Willow Street**

In order for J9 Wine Bar to open, it would need to obtain a Tavern liquor license from the City of Chicago. The site has a current zoning designation of B3-2, which does allow for Tavern licenses; however, the City's Zoning Code has a provision prohibiting additional liquor licenses in a B3 district within 400 feet of an existing liquor license. Thus, due to this site's proximity to other establishments with a liquor license, J9 Wine Bar is also proposing a temporary zoning change from the current B3-2 designation to C1-2, a zoning designation that doesn't have the same 400 foot restriction.

Please note that you should have also received notice in the mail of the zoning amendment application having been filed by the property owner and proposed wine bar operator, Sonya Mlodzek. This zoning amendment would need to be approved by City Council prior to the wine bar being able to apply for the liquor license. However, I have informed the applicant that I will not take a position on this application, nor will I allow this matter to proceed to the City Council's Committee on Zoning for a vote, until they fulfill our community review process and the community is able to provide input on this wine bar proposal.

I hope you can join my office and the Lincoln Central Association on May 4 to engage in a direct dialogue with the proposed wine bar team to gain a better understanding of this proposal and obtain answers to any questions the community may have.

In the meantime, if my office can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us at (773) 348-9500 or visit my website at [www.ward43.org](http://www.ward43.org).

Sincerely,

Michele Smith  
Alderman, 43rd Ward