

Hi,

I am writing this email to express my support to bill 1266. I currently reside in Platt Park, near a place that used to be a Hookah lounge. This place closed down very recently. Prior to its closure, we, residents of the nearby neighborhood, went through what I would call a complete nightmare. This nightmare lasted well over a year. Words can hardly describe the chaos this business brought to the neighborhood, several nights a week, at all hours of the night. From loud music played by patrons, street fights, street dance parties, daily public urinations, constant trespassing on our private property, trash, car alarms being turned on at all hours of the night, and so on. In the last few months, we also had regular drive by shootings.

While Habibi was just closed, residents near to Café Insomnia are experiencing this exact same situation. This Saturday night, there was a gunfight where over 20 shots were exchanged back and forth. One of the residents of that neighborhood received two bullets in their house.

Unfortunately, Hookah places do not fall under the same 'needs and desires' regulations bars have to follow, and business owners are not held to the same accountability levels as bars are held to. The neighborhood has no recourse to address potential issues. I am therefore completely supporting this bill, and specifically with a closing time of no later than 12AM. It is long overdue and absolutely needed for the welfare of all Denver neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Emma Hemery

Hi,

I would like to support Bill 1266, with a 12am (midnight) closure for all Hookah bars. I live near what used to be the Habibi Hookah bar, located at 1800 S. Broadway, which was recently closed due to a shooting. We have had noise and safety issues with this bar for the past year, and we have been calling the police several nights a week to get some relief from the constant chaos happening outside from 12am until around 430 or 5am. In recent months, the gun violence escalated from patrons of this hookah bar. We have video of a few of these shootings, and other video evidence that we've submitted to the police. While we now have peace in our neighborhood, now that Habibi has closed down, the problems just moved down the road. This weekend, there was a shootout at the Cafe Insomnia hookah bar, located at 2500 S. Broadway. There is a video showing there were at least 20 shots fired back and forth out of different guns. These issues are a systemic problem with hookah bars that are open late. I can speak for the over 50 people that we organized in our neighborhood when I say that we strongly support bill 1266 with a 12am closing time.

Thank You,

Steve Mendoza