

# Selectmen vote 3-1 for new restaurant license

After nearly two hours of discussion and against the wishes of several neighbors, the selectmen voted three-to-one Monday night to approve a common victualler's license for a 24-seat breakfast restaurant at 177 Commercial Street.

Mary-Jo Avellar, the only selectman voting against the license, said Tuesday the town has to hold the line on new licenses, especially because of neighbors' opposition.

Although the area is zoned commercial and the proprietor, Edward Souza, has fulfilled all legal requirements, several neighbors complained that the area should be spared further congestion. The structure once housed a restaurant.

But even some who oppose more commercialism in town thought the selectmen should not penalize Souza. "We have to adopt a policy, then enforce it," said Selectman Dick Henrique.

"The question is whether the conditions for the license have been met," said David Raboy. "In the absence of a policy, he's entitled to his license: a policy, but not on a first-come, first-served, hit-or-miss basis."

Souza, who came from California and bought the waterfront property to build the restaurant, first asked for the license three months ago. At that time the selectmen asked for the more detailed plans approved

Monday night.

Herman DeSilva, a neighbor, said the selectmen's role in zoning is not perfunctory, that the board "must take all criteria into consideration," including neighbors' fears of parking problems.

Souza sees the parking situation as a long-ignored town problem, which should not suddenly fall on his shoulders. George Bryant, selectmen chairman, thought "there would be more to discuss if it were a 240- rather than a 24-seat restaurant."

"I don't see how you can deny me," Souza told the board.



Advocate photo by Duane Steele

Ed Souza in front of home he will make a breakfast restaurant hard by Howard Mitcham's and Seaview restaurants (l.).

This building is second from Railroad Square, left and shows second left in next card

NO



Facing West from Lewis's Store - - - 1910