

The Grove Bar
Katie Lund, owner
100 E Grove St.
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

3/9/26

The Village of Poplar Grove Board of Trustees
200 N Hill St.
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Re: Appeal request for The Grove Bar at 100 E Grove in Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing to formally appeal the decision made for the mechanical ventilation requirements (the make-up air component of the existing kitchen exhaust hood) for The Grove Bar at 100 E Grove in Poplar Grove, IL 61065.

My goal as the new owner of The Grove Bar is to bring the facility up to code and provide a safe establishment for our customers and employees, but the ventilation requirements made this project prohibitively costly. I would like to offer freshly cooked food to our customers rather than being limited to pre-cooked items to ensure the business's success. This is a great concern.

The kitchen is located at the rear of the building, with an approximate total area of 3,500 square feet. The kitchen has historically been equipped with a commercial exhaust hood system with fire suppression that had passed inspection in the past. The exhaust has operated as described for a long time, and, to my knowledge, there has never been an issue.

The fact that the kitchen contains two operable, screened windows that have historically provided natural ventilation may have contributed to the existing exhaust hood system working adequately for a long time. These windows remain intact and functional today and have always been part of the kitchen's ventilation strategy. During prior years, I am not aware of any issues related to the air quality, negative pressure, or ventilation safety.


I have no plans to expand the kitchen, increase the hood size, change the hood type, or introduce higher-volume or higher-risk cooking equipment. The proposed menu will be consistent with the prior historical use, such as hamburgers, chili, and other freshly made foods.

I have been informed that a new mechanical make-up air system will be required, with an estimated cost of approx. \$ 30,000 . This represents a substantial and disproportionate financial burden, given the exhaust hood system's long-standing history without known issues related to air quality, negative pressure, or ventilation safety. I am hopeful that there is a way to compromise and find a resolution to the issue at hand, enabling me to operate the business with a fair chance of success.

This establishment has historically served as an important community gathering place for Poplar Grove and the surrounding area. The public's support received so far is very much appreciated. It is my goal to ensure that The Grove Bar is a safe, welcoming environment that supports economic development and contributes positively to the local economy.

We respectfully request your consideration based on the facility's status as an existing establishment, prior approval of the current hood system, the presence of two operable screened windows providing natural ventilation, and the financial hardship associated with the make-up air requirements.

Thank you


Katie Lund, owner of The Grove Bar