

Good afternoon,

Knoxville is becoming a very dog-friendly city, and I think the Bark, part of 12-B-21-SU, would be a great addition to our community. This location would be convenient as there is much walkability in the Happy Holler/4th and Gill area, and it has become more connected with the Old City as well as Downtown Knoxville. Right now, the city does not have any climate-controlled space for dogs to play and socialize with each other. With positive and attentive staff members ready to help with dog behavioral training, I think this would be a great opportunity for community-building with dog-lovers and pups themselves.

There have been many success stories with climate-controlled, indoor dog parks within the Southern U.S., such as "Haven the Dog Spot" in both Marietta and Atlanta, Georgia, "The Barking Deck" in Greensboro, North Carolina, and "Kanine Social" in Jacksonville, Florida. All of these businesses have maximized the use of their indoor space for dog-owners and dogs. Some of these businesses also have beer available for owners who maybe want an opportunity to unwind. With the growing number of breweries along Central Avenue, it could maybe be considered by the beer board, at some point in the future, that the Bark could work on serving local, craft beer from places like Crafty Bastard, Gypsy Circus, Elst, or Xul. Those breweries would likely gain business from many owners who could walk to and from these areas with open-spaces if a certain beer from one of the breweries to piqued interest of visiting that brewery. This would be an opportunity for economic growth in one part of Knoxville that is expanding outside the Old City and Downtown while still remaining a vital connector to those in the 4th and Gill neighborhood.

Unlike an outside space like the Petsafe Downtown Dog Park, I know that all the trainers at the Bark would do behavioral assessments and evaluations on the dogs ahead of letting them enjoy the space to ensure safety amongst all guests. I have had a few personal friends who have brought their dogs to the downtown dog park where there were some incidents that owners did not take responsibility for. Having attentive staff readily available and on-hand in a space like the Bark would reduce any incidents amongst dogs and dog owners.

I hope you all consider the economic growth, community-building opportunity, and safe location The Bark will be for a climate-controlled dog spot for owners and dogs alike. It'll bring more pedestrian traffic and likely lessen the number of incidents seen at the downtown dog park with more behavioral training readily available for pet owners.

Thank you for taking the time to read,

Drew Ellis