

MARY ALICE ARAKELIAN FOUNDATION

May 11, 2021

Ms. Nancy Batista Caswell
Brine Oyster Bar
State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Nancy -

Let me begin with the most important item....the Mary Alice Arakelian Foundation is in complete support of all that you are attempting to accomplish with Brine in the space formerly occupied by Fowle's News. As you know, Nick and Mary Alice Arakelian owned and operated Fowle's for more than fifty years.

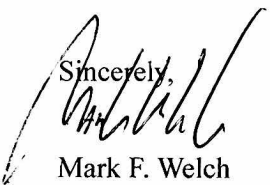
I think it is important to note that for the past several decades, the space Brine will soon occupy has been the location of many business failures, including the final version of Fowle's years after Nick had passed away. People often remember the past with rose colored glasses, and that false coloring can become an impediment to progress. It is exciting to imagine that, under your guidance, the the space will once again become a gathering spot for Newburyport people as well as folks from far and wide. Indeed, in another era, Fowle's was its own gathering place, where friendships were made and renewed, and where people made memories that lasted a lifetime.

Your proposed plan to have operable windows in the front of the building is precisely what is called for in the times in which we live. Opening the inside of your space to the outdoors is both aesthetically appealing and exactly what is needed from a public health point of view in a post pandemic restaurant.

One final thought about the signage. The legacy of Nick and Mary Alice is honored by having the iconic neon sign remain on the building. The removal of the Fowle's News sign along the front in no way diminishes that honor. It is quite simply the right time to do so and, if it can be partially salvaged and used inside, all the better.

I urge the city and all appropriate boards to approve your plans for Brine, and I wish you the very best of luck!

Sincerely,



Mark F. Welch
President

Post Office Box 695
Newburyport, MA 01950