

Man shot and killed at embattled liquor store

North Avenue business focus of resident protests

By Stephen Kiehl

Baltimore Sun, July 21, 2008

A man was shot in the head Saturday night at a North Avenue liquor store that has been the target of frequent complaints by neighbors and was ordered shut down earlier this year by the Baltimore liquor board.

The unidentified victim was pronounced dead inside Linden Bar and Liquors. No one else was injured in the shooting, police said. The store is on a block known for drug activity and violence, and drug dealing was common inside the store, said Stephan Fogleman, chairman of the liquor board, and residents of nearby Reservoir Hill.

Police and residents had urged the store's owner, Chang K. Yim, to hire a security guard and take other measures to keep dealers from congregating inside his store in the 900 block of W. North Ave. Yim installed lights outside but did not take other suggestions to improve safety, said City Councilman William H. Cole IV, whose district includes the store.

"Everybody saw this coming because it has just been festering," said Cole, who met with Yim twice in the past year. "This was preventable. If he had taken the actions the Police Department and others had asked of him, I dare say this tragedy might have been prevented."