

Hi there,

As a musician and community organizer, I am writing in support of Red Rooster Madison LLC to remain a music venue. I hosted *Harmony for Healing* benefit concert at Red Rooster on Sunday, January 5 and January 12, where we raised over \$3,000 for Abundant Life Christian School. These events were peaceful, meaningful, and centered around uplifting our local community.

The staff including Tim were extremely respectful, professional, and attentive throughout both events. I did not witness a single shot of alcohol being consumed by any staff member. That said, I did observe some patrons drinking heavily — enough to raise concerns about whether they would make it home safely. While this unfortunately reflects a broader pattern in bar culture, it highlights the importance of strong and consistent alcohol oversight.

On January 12, I also noticed that the parking lot was icy and hazardous, and the interior of the venue was noticeably cold. I did not voice my concerns of this.

Tim brought this case to my attention and asked if I would share my experience. After reviewing the City Attorney's complaint, I recognize the gravity of the violations and the tragic outcomes described, especially the fatality involving a former manager. I also understand that the licensee was frequently absent from the premises and had delegated day-to-day authority to others who were not listed on the license — a serious concern under **Wis. Stat. § 125.04(5)**, which requires license holders to maintain control of the licensed premises. During both events I hosted, I want to acknowledge that Tim did leave both times prior to me and other patrons leaving. However, I am unsure if alcohol was still being served beyond this point and would not be able to verify that information.

These are not minor concerns. Accountability is essential, and I fully support stronger oversight going forward. However, I believe there is a path to bring the venue into compliance without shutting it down completely. In accordance with **Wisconsin Statutes § 125.12**, local authorities may impose conditions short of revocation to address violations while preserving valuable community spaces.

To that end, I encourage the following measures:

- **Mandatory Responsible Beverage Server Training** for all staff
- **Earlier closing times** to reduce late-night incidents
- **Regular and unannounced compliance checks**
- **Clear expectations for the license holder's physical presence and involvement in day-to-day operations**

If it is ultimately determined that continued alcohol service is not in the public's best interest, I urge the committee to consider a conditional license allowing Red Rooster to continue operating as a food and live entertainment venue. The space is a vital hub for local musicians and artists — particularly from underrepresented communities — and with proper structure and oversight, I believe it can continue serving Madison in a safe and positive way.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Madison Flatman (*she/they*)

Administrative Operations Assistant

*Patient and Family Education (**hybrid-remote**)*

7974 UW Health Ct Middleton, WI, 53562

Mail Code: 9110

Work Phone: (608)-890-8457

Office Hours: M-F, 8am-4:30pm

