

Dear Members of the Alcohol License Renewal Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for renewing the liquor and entertainment licenses for Red Rooster Madison LLC (agenda items 5-6 for tonight's meeting). I read the complaint in its entirety and was deeply saddened to learn of the fatal accident that apparently stemmed from license violations at the Red Rooster. I take this very seriously and fully understand that there must be some sort of consequence for the owner, Tim Payne; however, shutting down the Red Rooster is extreme and deeply unfair to Mr. Payne, who is not directly responsible for the tragic event that occurred. Is there no such thing as a fine and probation period in these matters? I have absolutely no doubt that Mr. Payne will make it right.

I have spent many hours at the Red Rooster over the past year - both as a fan of live music and as a regular performer there - and I have never witnessed anything resembling the violations described in the complaint. What I HAVE witnessed, quite consistently, is Mr. Payne being a conscientious and responsible club owner who is very present and takes his role in the community very seriously. He treats musicians and patrons with respect at all times and he works very hard to make his club a welcoming and safe environment for musicians and fans to share the experience of live music. As a result of his care and effort, the Red Rooster is an absolute gem of a venue; when Madison makes top-10 national rankings for its arts and music culture, as it often does, venues like the Red Rooster are a big part of the reason.

Clearly, Mr. Payne has made some mistakes as a new and inexperienced club owner. He has things to learn and to fix - and I have every confidence that given the chance, he will do just that. I urge the Committee to give him that chance. Please, allow the Red Rooster to continue thriving as a unique and valuable asset to the culture of arts and music that Madison is justifiably known for.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Aaron S. Field, MD, PhD