

To the Madison alcohol licensing review committee:

First I want to express my sadness about the tragic accident that was the result of Mr. Nesthus's alcohol abuse. He is a troubled young man who has a documented history of bullying and belligerent behavior and lawlessness. I am not surprised that he has come to his present situation. The Red Rooster can only be partially responsible for his behavior.

Tim Payne, the owner of the Red Rooster is our son, so you can expect that we would defend him. But we also want to defend him and on other grounds.

The Red Rooster has been a labor of love and represents, literally, blood, sweat and tears to bring it to life. After a debilitating autoimmune disorder that left Tim with spinal cord damage and near paralysis, followed by a loss of employment, followed by loss of his business partner in the Red Rooster, followed by a descent into alcohol addiction, Tim, with tremendous effort and strength, has set his life straight. Tim is now sober and celebrates and encourages the many sober patrons of the Red Rooster.

The Red Rooster has been open only for a few years and in that time, despite the poor statistics for the life of new businesses, has grown into a viable neighborhood venue for an incredible diversity of music in the city, good food, and friendly atmosphere. Tim is very well-liked, in fact, on a recent visit, he stopped to chat with nearly every patron. Revoking the liquor license would be devastating to Tim on a personal level, and well as a loss to the far east side neighborhood and the many up and coming musicians who find performance opportunities there.

There is no doubt that Tim has made mistakes in learning how to manage a business on his own. There is, however, little evidence of a pattern of serving alcohol to obviously inebriated patrons, nor staying open past bar time. Tim is very dedicated to the success of the Red Rooster and is present and involved in all the day-to-day operations. He is conscientious and wants to correct any of the license violations that have been cited.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and sincerely hope that the liquor license of the Red Rooster is renewed.

Sue and Randy Payne