

**CITY OF MADISON
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Room 401, CCB
266-4511**

DATE: May 23, 2025

TO: Alcohol License Review Committee Members

FROM: Jennifer Zilavy, Assistant City Attorney

RE: 2025 Liquor License Separation: Cheba Hut, 453 W. Gilman Street

Cheba Hut was separated out due to the large number of police calls for service to their location where several of the calls have involved weapons and/or violence. Three violent calls just since March 2025. In January Cheba Hut did not have a licensed operator on site. On May 17, 2025, the Central Community Policing Team responded to Cheba Hut and found them to be exceeding their 75 person capacity by 30%. In addition, staff did not know their legal capacity. Cheba Hut was cited for the overcapacity violation.

The ALRC should consider whether Heather Huhn is the appropriate person to be the liquor/beer agent given that she lives in Milwaukee. Potential conditions that may help reduce the calls for service and ensure compliance with the law:

- Require a dedicated door person during certain hours
- Require posting of capacity number
- Limit the time during which they can sell alcohol (licensee would have to agree to this condition in order to impose it)
- Consider an audit by the finance department or some other way for Cheba Hut to substantiate their food/alcohol percentages. The percentage has been the same (18/82 alcohol/food) since their first application in 2021. It seems odd that the percentages would remain exactly the same as they were on their initial license application
- If the ALRC does not believe there are conditions that would reduce calls for service and address the violence, consider non-renewal or revocation.