

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Licenses Committee

VICE CHAIR

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development



MILELE A. COGGS
ALDERWOMAN, 6TH DISTRICT

MEMBER

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Library Board
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Special Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board

April 29, 2021

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Dear Members:

Re: Common Council File Number 201402

Attached are written objections to file number 201402, Motion relating to the recommendations of the Licenses Committee relative to licenses, relating to a recommendation of:

Renewal, with a ninety (90) day suspension, based on the police report and aldermanic testimony, of the Extended Hours Establishment license for Ron Stokes for the premises located at 1150 N Water St. ("Qboda Mexican Grill") in the 4th aldermanic district.

This matter will be heard by the full Council at its Tuesday, May 4, 2021 meeting. Pursuant to City Ordinances, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members have read the attached statement and materials.

Respectfully,

Milele Coggs, Chair
Licenses Committee

cc: All Council Members
City Attorney's Office
Common Council/City Clerk – License Division
CCF 201402



Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Ron Stokes <rstokes@roaring-fork.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly; Owczarski, Jim
Subject: Extended hours permit
Attachments: Stokes FOF.pdf; Stokes post-Committee.pdf

By way of introduction, I am the President and COO of Roaring Fork Restaurant Group. We operate 54 Qdoba's around the state and another 4 out of state. We have 5 stores in the City of Milwaukee. Our office, employing 20 FT employees is in the 3rd Ward.

I am writing in regard to a penalty that was suggested by a subcommittee of the Council in regard to a capacity COVID violation at our Water Street location. In July of 2020, we were cited for being over capacity during one of our late evening shifts. We don't argue that we were in violation and immediately took measures to ensure it didn't happen again. Since that one incident, we have not have any other issues. None. We take these matters seriously and took every appropriate measure. We have also submitted our COVID plans to the city of Milwaukee and they have been approved.

We opened our Water Street restaurant in August of 2008. We opened that store with the knowledge that there were late-night sales opportunities. We opened knowing that would be a part of our business plan. Without that, we felt it would not be a profitable venture. It has turned out to be the case and we operate late-night on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We do not and have not served alcohol and have no desire to do that. Without our late-night business, we would not be profitable. We employ approximately 20 people and without late-night, those employees would not have jobs. Entry-level jobs paying \$12-\$13 an hour lead to managerial opportunities for many within our team as we promote from within our ranks.

As a result of the one capacity issue, it has been mentioned that we would lose of late-night extended hours permit for a period of 90 days. We feel this is far too significant of a penalty that would cause appropriately 15 employees to lose their jobs and for our business to turn from making a profit to a non-profitable enterprise.

In reaching out to the health Department and Mike Otzelberger who is a supervisor at the Milwaukee Health Department. He said that we do not owe any fines and he does not even have a single complaint or incident on file for our establishment. He said that in July of last year, the department was focused on education and maybe sent out warning letters but was not issuing any type of citations or fines for establishments. He also said that the department was never notified that our restaurant had an over-capacity incident. He was shocked to hear that we were having any issue at all renewing our late-night license.

There have been businesses/bars that have citations for serving underage people. They have been issued fines ...not close their doors for any length of time. We have never had any issues...never have any fines and been a good corporate partner in Milwaukee employing over 120 employees. I am asking for the city council to consider all these factors and not close our late-night business for any length of time.

Respectfully,

Ron Stokes
President

Roaring Fork Restaurant Group