

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen,

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding my application for a liquor license in order to operate a tavern in the great city of West Allis!

I'm writing to introduce myself because although I know you will receive my background check, those documents will not be able to tell you my story, or why I am pursuing this dream.

I moved to the beautiful and bountiful state of Wisconsin when I was 15 years old with my family after spending 7 years in foster care and then being adopted by the most amazing people on Earth. I got my 1st job, as a bus girl, at 16 at Stoneridge Inn Supper Club in Muskego with my work permit. I went on to waitress at Aud-Mar on Muskego Lake, both still well-established restaurants today. 15 or 20 years ago I may have served you and your family at Genesis on Hwy 100 and Beloit, or at the Forum II on Layton Avenue. By that time I became a single mom and took up a career in office administration. When I turned 21, I became a bartender in order to help a friend at Shepherds Sports Lounge, where you can still come get a cocktail from me every Friday night – almost 20 years later. Over the last 20 years I have bartended for some of the most established and still running bars in West Allis including Spitfire's on State and Boz's. And although I no-longer partake in alcohol myself, I have close bonds and relationships with my old bosses and mentors and several of the tavern owners in West Allis currently. I have been in the service industry my entire life and operating a tavern has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember.

Unfortunately my perfect streak came to an abrupt end in October 2022. I sold alcohol to a minor at my current job, Crowdaddy's on Greenfield during a West Allis Police Department sting operation. I asked the citing officer how this would affect my getting a license and he said he couldn't say, but that it would definitely be discussed. First, I want to say that I am not arguing the infraction. I did not ask for the customers' I.D., against my better judgement, and I paid the fine without argument or contest. I have to say, I'm glad I sold it to a police officer that did not drink the beverage and therefore **did not** go out and become a danger to themselves or others. My daughter's father was killed by a drunk driver when I was one month pregnant with

our child. The person that killed him had been drinking at a bar underage. So I know all too well the consequences of irresponsible and underage drinking.

That being said, in my years behind the pine, I have participated in countless tavern checks where my license was verified to be valid. I have also been on the other side of several calls where my superior was notified that I DID NOT sell to any minors during their stings. So I consider it an **invaluable lesson learned** and that the one time in my 20 years that I sold alcohol to a minor, I can guarantee, was my last. I have had no other police contact since before the last time I sat in front of this council and you awarded me my bartending license, for which I am eternally grateful as it has been my livelihood ever since. Thank you.

Moving forward I would like the opportunity to bring the neighborhood together and create a strong sense of community. My goal is to bring a vibrant attitude and closeness to the people of that community. I fell in love with the space years ago and was sad to watch it decline over the years due to misuse and neglect. I have spent countless hours and resources of my own to revive and renew the space. Everything I have done has been to ensure that the building is in tip top shape and ready for inspection and to be operated to the fullest expectations of the board and the city.

If you grant me this license, I will create a safe environment that the girls would feel comfortable coming for drinks after work. Or that a gentleman could bring a lady on a first date. Or an established couple can come in for a nightcap after supper. I have specifically chosen my hours of operation to keep up with the way the bar scene is changing. I will also feature a whole line of non-alcoholic crafted beverages to appeal to designated drivers and patrons, like myself, that choose to not partake in alcohol consumption.

Finally I would like to thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to discussing all these details further and anything else you'd like to talk about when we meet face to face at the city council meeting. Thank you again.

Very Sincerely,

Josephine Crossley