

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE



STATE OF WISCONSIN

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

I hereby certify that on the 01 day of APRIL, 2022, in the City of Appleton and County of OUTAGAMIE, I served a copy of the Summons and Complaint on Kor Xiong, personally and leaving him a true copy thereof.

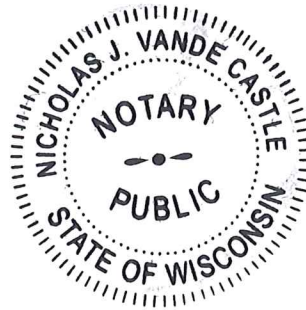
Wm. McE...
Signature of Officer Serving Summons
Appleton Police Department

04/01/22 2:00 PM
Date and Time of Serving

1350 W. COLLEGE AVE.
Location/Place where Defendant was Served

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of April, 2022.

[Signature]
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission is permanent.



CITY OF APPLETON,
a Wisconsin Municipal Corporation,
100 N. APPLETON STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911

SUMMONS

v.

Core's Lounge, LLC
Agent: **Kor Xiong**
1350 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE
SUITE D
APPLETON, WI 54911



TO: Any City of Appleton Police Department Officer

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,

KOR XIONG
1350 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE D
APPLETON, WI 54911

is commanded to appear at the Safety and Licensing Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 100 North Appleton Street in the city of Appleton and show cause why his Reserve "Class B" and Class "B" Alcoholic Beverage Licenses should not be revoked in accordance with Wis. Stat. Sec. 125.12.

Dated in Appleton, Wisconsin this 29th day of March, 2022.

CITY OF APPLETON



Kami Lynch, City Clerk

**CITY OF APPLETON,
a Wisconsin Municipal Corporation,
100 N. APPLETON STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911**



COMPLAINT

v.

**Core's Lounge, LLC
Agent: Kor Xiong
1350 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE
SUITE D
APPLETON, WI 54911**

**OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
FILED
MAR 29 2022
APPLETON, WISCONSIN**

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 5:30 P.M., the Safety and Licensing Committee of the Common Council of the City of Appleton will meet in the Council Chamber, 6th floor of the City Center, 100 North Appleton Street, Appleton, Wisconsin, at which time the Appleton Police Department, by Assistant Chief Polly Olson, a resident of the City of Appleton, will ask the Committee to recommend to the Common Council that it revoke the alcohol beverage license issued to Core's Lounge LLC, with a registered agent of Kor Xiong, for the licensed premises Core's Lounge, located at 1350 W College Avenue Suite D, Appleton, Wisconsin, 54911.

The recommendation of the Appleton Police Department and Assistant Chief Polly Olson, is being made based upon information and belief regarding the following incidents:

INCIDENT ONE

1. On July 25, 2021, Nou Vang, a manager of Core's Lounge, was issued a citation for Excessive Noise and a citation for Open After Hours.
2. On Sunday, July 25, 2021, at 2:00 AM, Officer Justice and Lieutenant Delplaine responded to a noise complaint at Core's Lounge. Officers could hear music emanating from the business while standing on the north sidewalk of the 1300 block of West Washington. Due to the

excessive noise, and after discussion with Nou Vang, she was cited for Excessive Noise.

3. After addressing the noise complaint with Nou Vang, Officer Justice estimated 20 people were still located in the bar area drinking alcohol. At approximately 2:30 AM, Nou Vang stated that individuals that were not employees would be leaving the bar.

4. At approximately 2:42, officers reentered the bar and again talked to Nou Vang about non-employees continuing to remain on the premises after the bar close after assuring officers the non-employees would leave. Nou Vang was informed multiple times that non-employees must vacate the bar but allowed non-employees to remain. Nou Vang was informed that because she failed to vacate the non-employees from the bar, she would also be cited for Open after Hours.

5. On November 10, 2021, Nou Vang, was found guilty of the Excessive Noise citation by a plea of No Contest.

6. Pursuant to the City of Appleton Code Sec. 9-54, the aforementioned violation requires the assessment of forty-five (45) demerit points.

7. On November 10, 2021, Nou Vang was also found guilty of the Open After Hours citation by a plea of No Contest.

8. Pursuant to the City of Appleton Code Sec. 9-54, the aforementioned violation requires the assessment of fifty (50) demerit points.

9. Pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and interpretations thereof, the licensee, Kor Xiong, is answerable for these acts and therefore ninety-five (95) demerit points have been attributed to his license pursuant to the aforementioned "Incident One."

INCIDENT TWO

10. On September 4, 2021, Kor Xiong, an owner of Core's Lounge, was issued a

citation for Failure to Vacate Premises.

11. On September 4, 2021, Officer Grier-Welch responded to a noise complaint that there was loud music coming from the bar, the Officer noted that this was the third call for service for the bar that evening.

12. Officer Grier-Welch arrived at Core's Lounge at approximately 3:00 AM and could hear music playing inside. Through the window, he also observed three females dancing on the dance floor, one of which appeared to be drinking a beer. Multiple individuals were also observed sitting and standing at the bar, a bartender behind the bar, and drinks still on the bar in front of people.

13. After eventually gaining access to the bar, Officer Grier-Welch had a conversation with both the bar manager, Nou Vang, and the owner, Kor Xiong, regarding the noise complaint and the patrons remaining inside the bar well past bar closing time. Based upon the officer's observations of patrons with drinks and showing no intentions of leaving the premise, a citation was written to Kor Xiong for Open After Hours.

14. On November 10, 2021, Kor Xiong was found guilty of the Open After Hours citation by a Plea of No Contest.

15. Pursuant to the City of Appleton Code Sec. 9-54, the aforementioned violation requires the assessment of fifty (50) demerit points.

16. Pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and interpretations thereof, the licensee, Kor Xiong, is answerable for this act and therefore fifty (50) demerit points shall be attributed to his license pursuant to the aforementioned "Incident Two."

INCIDENT THREE

17. On February 13, 2022, Nou Vang, a manager of Core's Lounge, was issued a

citation for Permitting Underage Person to Loiter on Premises.

18. On February 18, 2022, Lieutenant Nagel reviewed a report from a disturbance that occurred at Core's Lounge on February 13, 2022. Upon reviewing the report, Lieutenant Nagel determined that there were several underage persons inside the licensed premises. Six (6) separate citations were issued to underage persons loitering on premises as a result of the disturbance on February 13, 2022. As a result of numerous underage persons at Core's Lounge that evening, a citation was written to Nou Vang for Permitting Underage Person to Loiter on Premises.

19. On March 9, 2022, Nou Vang was found guilty of Permitting Underage Person to Loiter on Premises.

20. Pursuant to the City of Appleton Code Sec. 9-54, the aforementioned violation requires the assessment of eighty (80) demerit points.

21. Pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and interpretations thereof, the licensee, Kor Xiong, is answerable for this act and eighty (80) demerit points shall be attributed to his license pursuant to the aforementioned "Incident Three."

RECOMMENDATION

The above information indicates that on three separate occasions, state and/or local laws were violated by the licensee, Kor Xiong, or by his agents/employees working at the licensed premises. In accordance with the Appleton Municipal Code Sec. 9-54, the license holder has accumulated two hundred twenty-five (225) demerit points within an eighteen month period. The Code further requires that when demerit points totaling two hundred (200) or more are accumulated, the license shall be revoked. Upon an assessment of the demerit points, and considering the serious nature of these violations, the Appleton Police Department is requesting

that the Safety and Licensing Committee revoke the license issued to Core's Lounge LLC, with a registered agent of Kor Xiong for 1534 West College Ave. Suite D, Appleton Wisconsin; and, pursuant to Sec. 125.12(2)(c) that Kor Xiong not be granted a license under Ch. 125 for a period of 12 months from the date of revocation.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2022.



Assistant Chief Polly Olson
Appleton Police Department

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29th day of March, 2022.



Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission is permanent.





"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life."

LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Office of the City Attorney

100 North Appleton Street

Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: 920/832-6423

Fax: 920/832-5962

March 29, 2022

Core's Lounge
ATTN: KOR XIONG
1350 West College Avenue
Suite D
Appleton, WI 54911



Dear Kor:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the status of your licensed premise, Core's Lounge, located at 1350 West College Avenue, in the city of Appleton.

Your establishment recently had a violation for Permitting Underage Person to Loiter on Premises on February 2, 2022, which resulted in a conviction on March 9, 2022. Pursuant to Appleton Municipal Code Sec. 9-54, the violation carries an assessment of 80 demerit points. With this latest demerit point assessment, your license for this establishment has now accumulated a total of 225 demerit points within the last 18 months. Be advised that, according to Sec. 9-54 of the Appleton Municipal Code, if any establishment holding an alcohol license accumulates 200 or more demerit points within an 18-month period, the license is subject to revocation.

As a result of the total number of points accumulated, you are requested to appear before the Safety and Licensing Committee for a license revocation hearing on **Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers on the sixth floor of City Hall located at 100 North Appleton Street. Enclosed please find your copy of the Summons and Complaint. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125, you are entitled to a hearing. You may have an attorney represent you at the hearing, at your own expense, but are not required to do so. In addition, you may voluntarily surrender your license, thus avoiding the time and expense of a hearing.

These options may have different outcomes that I would be happy to discuss with you in more detail. Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss these matters. I can be reached at (920) 832-1580.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Vande Castle
Assistant City Attorney

Enclosure

Christopher R. Behrens
City Attorney

Amanda Abshire
Deputy City Attorney

Darrin M. Glad
Assistant City Attorney

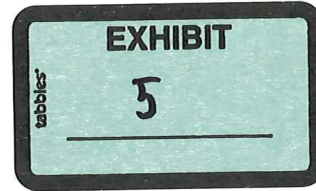
Nicholas J. Vande Castle
Assistant City Attorney

FILED
11-11-2021
Clerk of Circuit Court
Outagamie County
2021FO000803

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: November 11, 2021

Electronically signed by Barb Bocik
Clerk of Court



STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

City of Appleton vs. Nou Vang

Judgment of Conviction

and Sentence to the
County Jail/Fine/Forfeiture

Date of Birth: 11-16-1986

Case No. 2021FO000803

The defendant was found guilty of the following offense(s):

Table with 7 columns: Ct., Description, Violation, Plea, Severity, Date(s) Committed, Trial To, Date(s) Convicted. Row 1: Radio or electronic sound amp dev. prohibited, AC 12-87, No Contest, Forf. U, 07-25-2021, 11-10-2021

The defendant is guilty as convicted and sentenced as follows:

Table with 7 columns: Ct., Sent. Date, Sentence, Length, Begin date, Begin time, Agency, Comments. Row 1: 1, 11-10-2021, Forfeiture / Fine

Obligation Detail:

Table with 6 columns: Ct., Schedule, Amount, Days to Pay, Due Date, Failure to Pay Action, Victim. Row 1: 1, Local Forf. Violations, 114.50, 30, 12-10-2021, Standard Enforcement

Obligation Summary:

Table with 9 columns: Ct., Fine & Forfeiture, Court Costs, Attorney Fees, Joint and Several Restitution, Other, Mandatory Victim/Wit. Surchage, 5% Rest. Surchage, DNA Anal. Surchage, Totals. Row 1: 1, 6.17, 99.16, 9.17, 114.50

Total Obligations: 114.50

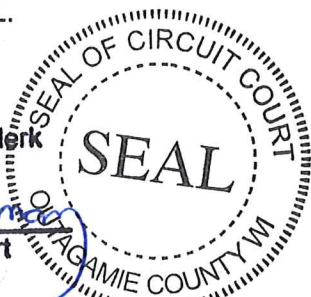
It is adjudged that 0 days sentence credit are due pursuant to §973.155, Wisconsin Statutes.

It is ordered that the Sheriff take the defendant into custody.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPEAL.

This document (1 pages) is a full and true copy of the original on file in the office of the Outagamie County Clerk of Circuit Court, State of Wisconsin.

3-18-22 Date Sheila A. Susman Deputy Clerk of Court



DISTRIBUTION:

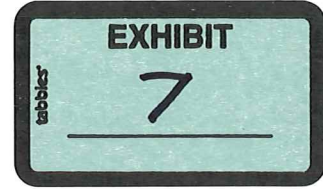
Brian Figy, Court Commissioner
County Sheriff

FILED
11-11-2021
Clerk of Circuit Court
Outagamie County
2021FO000968

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: November 11, 2021

Electronically signed by Barb Bocik
Clerk of Court



STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

City of Appleton vs. Kor Xiong

Judgment of Conviction

and Sentence to the
County Jail/Fine/Forfeiture

Date of Birth: 10-27-1982

Case No. 2021FO000968

The defendant was found guilty of the following offense(s):

Table with 7 columns: Ct., Description, Violation, Plea, Severity, Date(s) Committed, Trial To, Date(s) Convicted. Row 1: 1 Open after hours/failure to vacate premises, AC 9-52(4), No Contest, Forf. U, 09-04-2021, 11-10-2021

The defendant is guilty as convicted and sentenced as follows:

Table with 7 columns: Ct., Sent. Date, Sentence, Length, Begin date, Begin time, Agency, Comments. Row 1: 1 11-10-2021 Forfeiture / Fine

Obligation Detail:

Table with 6 columns: Ct., Schedule, Amount, Days to Pay, Due Date, Failure to Pay Action, Victim. Row 1: 1 Local Forf. Violations, 114.50, 30, 12-10-2021, Standard Enforcement

Obligation Summary:

Table with 10 columns: Ct., Fine & Forfeiture, Court Costs, Attorney Fees, Joint and Several Restitution, Other, Mandatory Victim/Wit. Surcharge, 5% Rest. Surcharge, DNA Anal. Surcharge, Totals. Row 1: 1, 6.17, 99.16, 9.17, 114.50

Total Obligations: 114.50

It is adjudged that 0 days sentence credit are due pursuant to §973.155, Wisconsin Statutes.

It is ordered that the Sheriff take the defendant into custody.

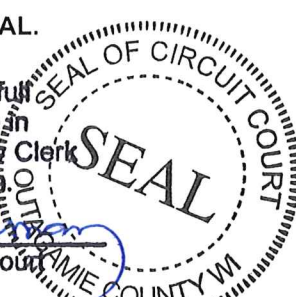
THIS IS A FINAL ORDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPEAL.

DISTRIBUTION:

Brian Figy, Court Commissioner
County Sheriff

This document (1 pages) is a full and true copy of the original on file in the office of the Outagamie County Clerk of Circuit Court, State of Wisconsin.

3-18-22 Shida Hussain
Date Deputy/Clerk of Court





POLICE DEPARTMENT

222 South Walnut Street • Appleton, WI 54911-5899
(920) 832-5500 • Fax: (920) 832-5553
<http://www.appleton.org/police>

November 23rd, 2021

Core's Lounge
Kor Xiong
1350 W College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54914



RE: Demerit Point Assessment

Dear License Holder:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the status of your licensed premise, Core's Lounge, located at 1350 W College Avenue in the City of Appleton.

Your establishment recently had a violation for Open After Hours (2) and Noise Violation, which resulted in a conviction on November 10th, 2021. Pursuant to Appleton City Ordinance 9-52, the violation carries an assessment of 50 demerit points. Pursuant to Appleton City Ordinance 12-87, the violation carries an assessment of 45 demerit points. At this time, your license for this establishment has a total of 145 demerit points within the last 12 months and 145 demerit points within the last 18 months.

Please remember that if any beer/liquor license accumulates 150-199 demerit points within a 12 month period the license is subject to suspension for not less than 10 days nor more than 90 days. If any beer/liquor license accumulates 200 or more demerit points within an 18 month time period, the license is subject to being revoked. A copy of the ordinance was provided to you at the time you received your license. You can also view all City of Appleton Ordinances at www.appleton.org. If your license is subject to either of the above, please contact me at your earliest convenience to address this matter.

The City of Appleton Police Department offers free training to help ensure your establishment is operating in a manner that is safe and legal. If you have any questions regarding this recent violation and/or are interested in taking advantage of this free training, please contact me at 832-5524.

Sincerely,

Lt. Adam Nagel #9191

FILED
03-14-2022
Clerk of Circuit Court
Outagamie County
2022FO000155

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: March 14, 2022

Electronically signed by Brian G. Figy
Court Commissioner



STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
City of Appleton vs. Nou Vang Default Judgment

Case No. 2022FO000155

THE COURT FINDS:

- The defendant was given notice that this matter was to be heard on March 9, 2022 at 08:30 am.
The scheduled time has passed.
The defendant has not appeared or posted a cash bond.
The failure of the defendant to appear or post a cash bond can be treated as a no-contest plea.
The defendant's failure to appear is deemed to be a plea of no contest, and the defendant is found guilty of the following charges.

Table with columns: Count, Citation No., Viol. Date, Conv. Date, Statute, Description. Row 1: 1, 2Q81DRXHJP, 02-13-2022, 03-09-2022, AC 9-51, Permitting Underage Person to Loiter

IT IS ORDERED:

- Judgment be entered against the defendant.
The following penalty is imposed:

Table with columns: Count, Sentence, Comments, Time, Amount. Row 1: 1, Forfeiture / Fine, \$263.50

Total Amount Assessed: \$263.50
Less Amount Paid/Other: \$0.00
Total Amount Due: \$263.50

- If you have not already paid the total amount due, you must pay no later than April 8, 2022.
If you are unable to pay this judgment because of poverty, as that term is used in §814.29(1)(d), Wisconsin Statutes, please notify the court in writing.
If the forfeiture is not paid within the required time, you may face jail time, a civil judgment, referral to a collection agency and/or your tax refund may be intercepted.
The clerk of courts shall promptly mail a copy of this judgment to the defendant's last known address.
For certain DNR violations, your Chapter 29 privileges could be revoked or suspended.

Send payment to:

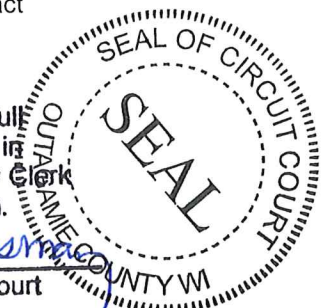
Clerk of Courts
320 S Walnut Street
Appleton WI 54911

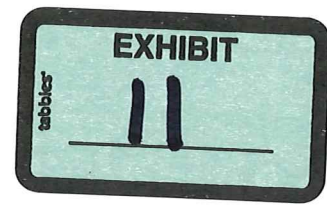
Pay online at:

https://wcca.wicourts.gov/payOnline
There will be a convenience fee charged for this service.
Checks, MasterCard and VISA are accepted.

This document (1 pages) is a full and true copy of the original on file in the office of the Outagamie County Clerk of Circuit Court, State of Wisconsin.

3-18-22 Sheila Drossner
Date Deputy/Clerk of Court





To whom this may concern,

I would like to speak on behalf of Nou and Kor Vang about their business license getting revoked. During the event that was held on February 12, 2022, I, Jenelle Vang, went to the event because a well known artist in our community was attending. Although the event was held at a bar, most events held at Course Lounge are 18 plus, and so I, and a couple of friends had just assumed that this event held on Valentine's weekend was also an 18 plus event. They do also sell food and nonalcoholic drinks to those who are not of age, and speaking as one of the many that received a ticket, I could not buy or receive drinks that contained alcohol in them. Nou and Kor do an amazing job at getting to know their customers and making sure all of their customers who come in for alcoholic drinks are over the age of 21. My presence during this event should not be a reflection of the business itself, for it is a great place that allows everyone to feel a part of all of the special events that they hold.

Thank you.

Email: Jenellevang04@gmail.com

Phone Number : 715-574-4088



I am serena xiong, Kor's eldest child and a first generation hmong american that is going to attend college in September of 2022. Its very important to me that my dad is able to continue to keep his liquor license and business running because its his only form of income, in which i expect him, as my dad, to help me pay my college tuition. Without his liquor license, he will no longer be able keep the bar running to support me financially along with my three younger brothers. With the financial support that i expect from my dad, I will be able to succeed better, not only as an upcoming college student, but as an individual. His support is something I'd like to continue having, so I ask you to allow him to continue with his business.

Serena Xiong

920-252-2494



Dang Thao
(920) 841-6567
Dangthao9527@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Dang Thao. I am a part-time bartender at Cores Lounge. I would like to start off by saying that in Cores Lounge they provide a safe and comfortable environment for minorities and myself included. As a minority we have limited public social entertainment in the Appleton area. My time helping with bartending at Cores Lounge, I've always made sure to check everyone's ID to safely serve the community. Although I was not there during the incident on that particular night, I can safely say that the owners are very responsible in keeping great care of themselves, their customers, and the bar policy that includes anything with the law. I personally choose Cores Lounge as one of the best public social entertainment because they have allowed relaxed seating, couches and a fun karaoke. Aside from alcohol, they also serve amazing nourishments and beverages. If Cores Lounge is shut down, you would be taking away a great way of connecting for most minorities of Hmong people. Please reconsider from taking that connection as we have already discussed better security to avoid such incidents from happening again in the future.



April 12th, 2022

To whom it may concern:

My name is Pa Houa Yang. I am a licensed practical nurse at a long term care skilled nursing facility in Menasha. I have been a regular customer of Core's Lounge for the last two years. My family and friends patronize Core's Lounge almost every weekend. We go to Core's because we are treated like family, as Core used to be married to my cousin. I feel that Core's Lounge is safe as I feel safe while I am there. There have been times where I would stay after bar close to help clean up. Again, I do not mind helping, as he is family. Core is a friendly business owner, but is not afraid to put people in their places, if needed. I have seen him and his bartenders ask for proof of identification from non-regulars or people he does not know. His patrons have a great deal of respect for him. Core's Lounge is safe place to relax after a hard week's work. My family and I choose Core's Lounge over all the other Hmong bars in the area because of this very reason. Please take this letter into consideration while making your decision whether or not to revoke Core's Lounge's liquor license. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions and thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Yang".

Pa Houa Yang
920-809-2079



Lue J Thor
406 Hawk St.
Oshkosh WI, 54902
12th April, 2022

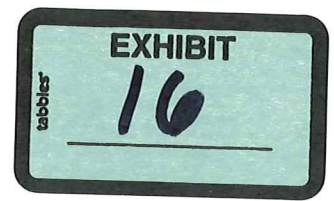
I, Lue Thor understand the situation Core's Lounge is in as I am supportive of this bar. It has been great experience in meeting new people during my darkest times when needed.

I have seen Core's Lounge do many things such as having karaoke for when they are open, for having live music events to support the Hmong artists that perform songs and their new songs. They have hosted multicultural nights in the events to spread culture from other areas and dress up in traditional clothing which I have not seen before at any other bars.

I believe there are many people who are supportive of this bar, there is not many Hmong bars around as other Hmong bars around support each other to give each other breaks. I believe it would be lost to many others and family to lose Core's Lounge as those who are not comfortable with going to other bars are felt welcomed into this bar just as I was with some of the happiest moments of my life.

Sincerely,
Lue J Thor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Lue J Thor", written in a cursive style.



Hi,

Let me start my introducing myself. My name is Choua Moua and I'm located in Maplewood, Minnesota. I work in the IT department at Boston Scientific. I travel to Appleton, WI for work and leisure. Cores Lounge is a quiet neighbourhood bar. It's a place makes me feel like a home away from home. Please reconsider revoking their liquor license.

Thanks,

Choua Moua

Cell: 651-955-9940

Email: cmoua247@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Choua Moua".



Pa Lee (She/Her/Hers)
On-site Crisis Domestic Violence Advocate
Northeast Wisconsin Hmong Providers Group
1707 Hamilton Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 374-0988
Leep29@uwgb.edu

April 12th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Pa Lee. I am a customer, friend and colleague of the staff and owners of Cores Lounge. I am writing this letter because I feel it is necessary to talk about the character of Core's Lounge, their owners, business partners and staff. I've known of and seen Core's Lounge in business for the past 2 years. Over this period of time, I've seen a couple who have put their lives into their work, two individuals and business partners who have exerted a lot of energy and worked hard coping with and learning how to run a business, balancing making a living and providing for their family, while attempting to establish that their business is a reflection of their customer's needs and wants.

Currently I live in Manitowoc, which is an hour away where I work as a Crisis and On Site Domestic Violence Advocate while participating in community outreach in the Hmong Community with the Northeast Wisconsin Hmong Providers Group and due to a relationship that has grown from being a customer to a friend, I've continue to be a regular supporter of the business. They have always made me feel welcomed and I've seen them endure and grow so much, while I've help them out and collaborated with them on projects/events on numerous occasions. I've been present and worked occasionally as and with staff, while opening and during closing hours and they have always tried their best to ensure that their employees, family and friends feel heard, stay safe, are away from harm's way. They always vocalizing the importance of having designated drivers and always wish for the safety of their customers as they head home.

Repeatedly they've stated that they hope to be different from other establishments and do not just, want to be owners but they aspire to have a connection with their customers from all different experiences. Following, Core's Lounge has many ties to the community. Through my work as a Crisis and On-site Domestic Violence Advocate and my work in community outreach, both Nou and Kor have allowed me to use their business to help with projects and fundraisers. Last year during April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Nou and Kor allowed me to advertise our organization at their bar, in hopes to connect the Hmong community and to bring awareness

that Hmong Advocates and resources are available for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. As some know, alcohol is present in many sexual assault cases. We know that the Hmong community is greatly underrepresented and sexual assaults/domestic violence in the Hmong community are likely to go unreported. Nou and Kor decided and agreed that it would be a great idea to let their customers know that there are safe spaces out there and they lent their voices and their business to let customers know that violence, sexual assault, harassment and racism are not accepted in their establishment, not just during Sexual Assault Awareness Month but all year long. I think that speaks volumes. They accept anyone into their business but they also want to make sure that respect and safety is also a top priority and they know this is a work in progress. They continue to work on it daily and Nou has continued to collaborate with me, always lending an open ear and an open mind when it comes to idea of potential fundraisers and projects. This past summer Core's Lounge allowed me to carry out a weekend fundraiser to raise funds for a customer of theirs who father passed away as they needed help with funds for the funeral -- which happily, we were able to raise hundreds of dollars. We have many projects in store including possibly raising money for a Hmong elderly woman who is currently in the hospital, who made Hmong themed cloth face masks for me, when I would attend events regarding my outreach projects aimed at the Hmong community. I hope that we can continue to serve the Hmong community in this way.

Though I know that everyone is questioning the safety of the public with this establishment, I can say that in those moments Nou and Kor will always try their best to make sure that their customers are not at risk. During the unfortunate event of a shooting that occurred on February 13th, 2022 outside of Core's Lounge, I was present and witness many things. During that alarming time, Kor, without hesitation ran to the front entrance and barricaded the door shut, while putting himself between a crowd and the door, to make sure that none of his customers could leave because he was worried about their safety. As many people pleaded and screamed stating they need to go outside (where the shooter was) to find their friends and family members, Kor would not allow it because he was worried about the presence of the shooter and didn't want anyone to get hurt. During this night, Nou and Kor, even though outnumbered and with no extra security, they made sure that their customers and staff were safe and cared for. They tried to console their customers, fed and gave them free food from their bar and restaurant and stayed until everyone was done with questioning. I myself had to stay until 7 am and even at that time, there was still, what seemed like 2 handful of witnesses still waiting to be questioned.

Even after that terrifying event, Nou and Kor still came back later that night to clean up the establishment. In these heightened moments, you will discover, not only who they are as business owners but the extension of their character; that it takes great courage but even greater love/selfless-ness for others, to do what they did. I do think that due to their love for others and their quick thinking, it did have a positive impact, resulting in only one injury that night, in relation to the shooting. Though it is still heartbreaking and devastating to hear, we are also all very grateful and fortunate because it could have been so much worse.

As for other incidents, Nou and Kor like any business can always improve, I agree with and respect the council's concern and point of view, that the safety of the public should be a top

priority and that some things can't go on. In addition, that changes need to and hopefully can be made. I am asking for the council to have some leniency and consider that because they are new business owners, it would be disappointing to have their business be revoked of its license. Instead please greatly consider suspending their license temporarily and help them with resources, educating them on how to make improvements. The council, if possible allow them to open and only open once the council feels they have been educated properly and taken the proper precautions or measures to improve, address and fix the concerns that you as a council and the public may have. I do want the council to consider everything I've mention, from their ally-ship when it comes to issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, racism, etc. to their love for their customers and their business. I want the council to also know that through my personal connection with them, I do not see them as just owners of a bar, I do see them as small business owners because I see how much effort and commitment they pour into their business. I see them as individuals trying to achieve the American Dream while being minorities and breaking crippling generational norms. I do not know if you know this about their business but Nou handles the finances and the accounts related to Core's Lounge. She is not just a bartender but she is a Hmong Woman of color who handles the financial and business aspect and is as much of a business owner as her partner Kor, something only women in the past generations can dream of. Kor, moved to Appleton and is a tax paying citizen but is also a cisgender Hmong man, who willingly converses with female Hmong customers on topics of relationships, the Hmong culture, norms and stereotypes. He is willing to not only lend his perspective on the issues but is willing to hear their voices out and respond with patience and without being patronizing. They run their business not a lot of available help/staff and I know them both to be very giving, as every few months they construct dinners in appreciation of their customers, friends and family because of it. I know them to be courteous, eager to learn and attempt to improve every chance they get. I believe they are able to make the necessary changes if needed to make sure that this doesn't happen again. In conclusion, I would find it really hard to believe that Core's Lounge would be unable to make an improvement. I hope you consider giving them another chance and allow them to continue setting an example and a standard, not just as business owners but as individuals to the rest of the community. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pa Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "L".

Pa Lee