



DEPARTMENT OF  
**LEGAL AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES**

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TO: Safety and Licensing Committee, Common Council

From: ACA Zak Buruin

Date: 6/21/24

RE: Corner Pub, Alcohol Beverage Abandonment and Non-Renewal

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Wisconsin Statutes §125.12(3) and (2)(ag) authorize an issuing municipality to refuse to renew an alcohol beverage license where the licensee has violated a local regulation adopted under §125.10. Appleton Code §9-52 is such a regulation.

Appleton Code §9-52(9) provides that abandonment of an alcohol beverage license shall be sufficient grounds for revocation or non-renewal of such license. It defines “abandonment” as “continuing refusal or failure of the licensee to use the license for the purpose for which the license was granted by the city council for a period of one (1) year.” The Common Council may extend such period if good cause is shown.

On May 30, 2023, the Appleton Health Department conducted an inspection of the Corner Pub, an alcohol beverage licensed establishment located at 1123 N. Mason Street in Appleton. The inspection was prompted by a broken water pipe in the rental unit above the bar, resulting in significant damage to the licensed premises. The inspection report noted several significant areas of concern and several city departments that would need to approve of the repairs and conditions of the bar before it would be able to reopen.

On July 28, 2023, license holder Kim Williams was notified of the situation via a letter from Clerk Lynch. The letter advised Ms. Williams that if her business was not reopened by May 30, 2024, would result in grounds for her alcohol beverage license(s) to be revoked or not renewed. It advised that the letter was intended to provide her ample notice of the potential loss of her alcohol beverage license and to remedy the situation by reopening the business.

On May 30, 2024, the given deadline to reopen, the Appleton Health Department conducted an inspection to determine if the premises was compliant with requirements to reopen. The inspection report noted that the bar area was not complete, and the business did not look as though it was ready to open. It was further noted that multiple city departments were unable to confirm that the establishment was able to resume

operation. The Health, Fire, and Inspections departments had not been able to approve the condition of the premises due to necessary additional work. The establishment could not reopen.

The following day, Clerk Lynch provided written notice to Ms. Williams of the intent to not renew her alcohol beverage license(s) based upon abandonment. The letter provided her with the required opportunity to be heard on the issue of the non-renewal of her alcohol beverage license at the meeting of the Safety and Licensing Committee of the Appleton Common Council on June 26 at 5:30 PM, The same letter advised her of the option to withdraw the renewal application and have the associated license fee refunded.

Based upon the above, the alcohol license in question is considered “abandoned” and is therefore subject to revocation or non-renewal under Appleton Code §9-52(9).