

Elsen, Nikki

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Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 11:40 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Concerns about Latinos

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Hello City Council Members,

I write this as a citizen of La Crosse, not as a UWL employee/representative, nor as a candidate for City Council.

I eagerly listened to the hearing yesterday about the concerns of the business practice of Latino's Bar. Interestingly, I took my 6 year old to get his hair cut at a place of business nearby Latino's this week. The owner told me, "If Latino's stays open, I will not stay downtown." The owner shared that business owners near Latinos have to spend hours cleaning up their front door areas of vomit and trash and other unknown substances. The reason they believe the ownership of this problem to be connected to Latino's is that when Latino's is closed, they do not have the same issue - such as during the last 2 weeks of December and early January. It is disheartening to me that when great efforts are being made to revive our downtown businesses, such a concern can exist.

Additionally, my concern is honestly less about underage consumption and more about the apparent "over-serving" that is occurring. I speak with many people who interact with young adults on a regular basis. This includes local business managers and those in community organizations. They have shared stories about young adults who were left wondering around the city too intoxicated to find their way home, after being at Latino's.

I am well aware of the culture of alcohol consumption in Wisconsin, specifically, La Crosse. Liquor licenses are required for a myriad of reason for local establishments. But one such reason must be to revoke the license when an establishment is not abiding by the law. I am fearful of potential irrevocable harm that may be done to those allowed to consume at Latino's. It would be a shame to say, "we knew it was an issue and chose not to stop it."

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Weston
La Crosse Resident