STIPULATION REGARDING ALCOHOL LICENSE(S) NONRENEWAL PROCEEDINGS WITH ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE LLC, D/B/A RUTHIE'S

Background

In May 2026, the City of La Crosse sought the nonrenewal of the Odd Fellows Temple LLC, d/b/a Ruthie's alcohol license for failure to comply with La Crosse Municipal Code Section 4-43. This code provision requires that upon receiving a retail Combination "Class B" intoxicating liquor license, the licensee "shall be open for business with stock and equipment" within 90 days of the license being granted. This matter is scheduled to be heard by the Judiciary and Administration Committee on June 2, 2026.

Ruthie's was granted its license on August 14, 2025, and has not opened for business as of the date of this agreement. Ruthie's recently informed the City that it intends to be open for business within sixty (60) days.

Agreement

This agreement is entered into on the 22nd day of May, 2026, by the City of La Crosse and Odd Fellows Temple LLC, d/b/a Ruthie's. The parties agree to the following:

1. The City provided Ruthie's written notice and opportunity for a hearing consistent with Wis. Stat. § 125.12(3).

2. Ruthie's acknowledges that it was in violation of Code Section 4-43.

3. The parties entered into discussions and reached an agreement regarding this matter.

4. The City will suspend its nonrenewal efforts and recommend that Ruthie's alcohol license be renewed with the condition that Ruthie's be open for business within sixty (60) days. Open for business means that Ruthie's has passed all inspections necessary to allow the public to enter and occupy the premise, has been issued its license from the City Clerk, and can prove it is actively selling alcoholic products consistent with its license.

5. If Ruthie's is not open for business within sixty (60) days of July 1, 2026, Ruthie's agrees to an automatic revocation of its alcohol license and agrees to not contest such revocation.

6. By signing this stipulation, Ruthie's voluntarily ***waives any right to a hearing on the revocation of its license*** and understands that if revoked it would ***have to wait to reapply for a period of one year from the date of revocation*** pursuant to Code Section 4-75(2).

7. Although Ruthie's waives any right to a hearing, the Common Council still has final approval over any license revocation.

[Signature Page to Follow]

Signature of Parties

City of La Crosse:

Ellen R. Atterbury
Assistant City Attorney

5-22-26
Date

Odd Fellows Temple LLC, d/b/a Ruthie's:

Dale D. Berg, Agent

05/22/2026
Date