

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPLAINT AGAINST**

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

**J.N. CORTEZ LLC,
D.B.A. Mi Ranchito II**

**PREMISES:
1235 Indiana Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53081**

LICENSING, HEARINGS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

On August 14, 2025, a Summons was issued to J.N. Cortez, LLC D.B.A. Mi Ranchito II (the "Licensee") for the licensed premises located at 1235 Indiana Avenue, Sheboygan, WI (the "Premises") based upon a sworn written Complaint signed August 14, 2025 by City of Sheboygan Patrol Officer Gustavo A. Lopez. A sworn written Amended Complaint was signed August 20, 2025 by Chief of Police Kurt Zempel. The Amended Complaint included five counts against the Licensee and sought the revocation of the Licensee's Class "B" fermented malt beverage license, "Class B" intoxicating liquor license pursuant to §§ 125.12(2)(ag)1. and 2., Wis. Stats. and Sections 4-3 and 4-34 of the Sheboygan Municipal Code. The Amended Complaint also sought the revocation of the Licensee's Dancehall license pursuant to Sections 6-57 and 6-83 of the Sheboygan Municipal Code and the revocation of Licensee's Amusement license pursuant to Section 6-221 of the Sheboygan Municipal Code. The Amended Complaint was served on the licensing agent, Elena Goya Cortez, on August 20, 2025. All references to the "Complaint" shall be to the Amended Complaint dated August 20, 2025.

On August 25, 2025, the City of Sheboygan Licensing, Hearings, and Public Safety Committee (the “Committee”) held a hearing on the Amended Complaint. The Complainant was represented by Attorney Nicholas Cerwin. The Licensee appeared by licensing agent Elena Goya Cortez, and was represented by Attorney Jason E. Dierkes. The Committee was represented by Attorney Ian Prust.

Findings of Fact

Based upon the testimony and exhibits presented by Complainant and Licensee the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Count 1 – 7/10/2025 Closure of Establishment

Based upon the testimony of Sheboygan Building Inspector Michael Cupp, the Committee finds the facts set forth in Count 1 of the Complaint to be true. Based upon safety concerns regarding the structural integrity, the Mi Ranchito Premises are currently unsafe for occupancy and have been placarded by the City of Sheboygan.

Conclusions of Law:

Revocation or Suspension of Class “B” and “Class B” license number 3475 pursuant to § 125.12(2)(ag)1., Wis. Stats., and Sheboygan Municipal Code 4-3: The structural issues set forth in Count #1 are not a legal basis for the revocation of the Licensee’s Class “B” and “Class B” alcohol licenses.

Revocation of Dancehall License number 3475: The Committee recommends that the Dancehall license issued by the City pursuant to Sheboygan Municipal Code 6-86 held by J.N. Cortez, LLC D.B.A. Mi Ranchito II be revoked for failure to keep the premises in compliance with building laws, ordinances, and rules related to maintaining a proper place to hold dances as required by Sheboygan Municipal Code 6-83.

Counts 2, 3, and 5 – Relating to a Shooting Incident and Various Physical and Nuisance Incidents

Based upon the testimony provided by Officer Gustavo Lopez-Villaneueva in support of Counts 2 and 3, Officer Charles Jumes in support of Count 3, and Officer Chris Strzyzewski in support of Count 5, and based upon the testimony provided by Elena Goya Cortez, the committee makes the following findings regarding Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the Complaint:

- 1- The Committee finds the testimony of the City of Sheboygan police officers to be credible and accurate representations of the events that occurred on the Premises as set forth in Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the complaint.
- 2- Based upon the testimony of the City of Sheboygan Police Officers, the Committee finds the allegations set forth in Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the complaint to be true.
- 3- The Committee finds that the facts and circumstances set forth in Counts 2, 3, and 5 demonstrate a pattern of Licensee's repeated failure to properly and timely notify the Sheboygan Police Department of significant incidents which caused disorderly and riotous behavior at the premises. The result of these incidents endangered public safety.
- 4- The Committee finds that the Licensee's failure to properly and timely notify the Sheboygan Police Department of incidents at the premises resulted in additional disorderly and riotous behavior which originated at Mi Ranchito and continued at off-premise locations, further endangering public safety.

- 5- The Committee finds that Count 3 is a significant violation of § 125.12(2)(ag)2., Wis. Stats. The Committee finds that Juan Negrete – a co-owner of the Licensee – was an active participant in the physical altercation on January 18, 2025. The Committee further finds that Elena Goya Cortez failed to properly disclose the identity of the participants in the physical altercation – specifically, that she did not identify Juan Negrete as a participant in the altercation until after Mr. Negrete was unavailable for questioning for an extended period of time. These findings related to Count 3 demonstrate that the licensee has maintained a disorderly or riotous premises which endangers public safety.
- 6- The Committee finds that the police calls set forth in Count 5 – specifically those set forth in Paragraphs 15.a, b., and c. of the Complaint – support the pattern of failing to notify the Sheboygan Police Department in a timely manner of activities which cause disorderly and riotous behavior at the Premises and off the Premises, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 125.12(2)(ag)2.

Conclusions of Law:

Revocation or Suspension of Class “B” and “Class B” license number 3475 pursuant to § 125.12(2)(ag)2., Wis. Stats., and Sheboygan Municipal Code 4-34: Based upon the Committee’s findings regarding the activities set forth in Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the Complaint, the Licensee keeps or maintain a disorderly or riotous house. The Committee recommends a 90-day suspension of the Class “B” and “Class B” licenses held by J.N. Cortez, LLC D.B.A. Mi Ranchito II.

Revocation or Suspension of Class “B” and “Class B” license number 3475 pursuant to § 125.12(2)(ag)3., Wis. Stats., and Sheboygan Municipal Code 4-34: The

Committee's findings regarding the activities set forth in Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the Complaint do not constitute a basis for suspension or revocation pursuant § 125.12(2)(ag)2., Wis. Stats., for selling or giving away alcohol to habitual drunkards.

Revocation or Suspension of Amusement License number 3475 pursuant to Sheboygan Municipal Code 6-221: Based upon the Committee's findings regarding Counts 2, 3, and 5 of the Complaint, the Licensee's establishment has become a source of rowdiness in the neighborhood, a source of frequent complaints to police, and a disruption to good peace and order. The Committee recommends a 90-day suspension of Amusement License number 3475.

Count 4 – 10/5/2024 Neighborhood Dispute

The Committee finds the testimony of Officer Jumes to be truthful and accurate. The Committee finds that the neighborhood dispute set forth in Count 4 of the complaint demonstrates a negative effect on the neighborhood, but the effect does not rise to the level of suspension or revocation.

Recommendation

Based upon the Committee's findings of fact and conclusions of law stated above, the Committee recommends that the Common Council of the City of Sheboygan take the following actions:

- 1- Revoke Dancehall License number 3475.
- 2- Suspend Class "B" and "Class B" license number 3475 for a period of 90-days for maintaining a disorderly or riotous house in violation of § 125.12(2)(ag)2., Wis. Stats.

- 3- Suspend Amusement License number 3475 pursuant to Sheboygan Municipal Code 6-221 for a period of 90-days because the Licensee's establishment has become a source of rowdiness in the neighborhood, a source of frequent complaints to police, and a disruption to good peace and order.

Approved by the City of Sheboygan Licensing, Hearings, and Public Safety Committee
this 8th day of September, 2025

By: _____
Aldersperson Zach Rust, as Chairperson of the
Licensing, Hearings, and Public Safety Committee