



311 1st Ave., Ste. 318
Seattle, WA 98104

January 12, 2007

The Honorable Nick Licata, President
Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

RE: Mayor's Propose Nightlife Premises License Legislation

Dear Councilmember Licata:

Thank you for your support of the music and nightlife industry in Seattle and your interest in our thoughts on the Mayor's proposed Nightlife Premises License ordinance. The Seattle Nightlife and Music Association (SeattleNMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment and hope to work with you and other members of the council to craft an approach that allows our city to maintain a healthy, safe, and vibrant nightlife.

Attached please find a detailed analysis of the Mayor's proposal as well as comments on related city issues. In addition, we are providing you comments regarding a proposal by the Washington State Liquor Control Board to create a new "Nightclub License" which would impose new conditions and restrictions on bars, taverns and nightclubs.

Overall, we are concerned about the piecemeal approach that both the city and the state are taking in attempting to impose new regulations on late night drinking establishments. The approaches between the city and the state are not only inconsistent, but could result in some businesses operating under one set of state rules, another under a city standard, and yet others attempting to operate under both. This bifurcated approach does not adequately deal with neighborhood issues and further harms the music industry by singling them out for increased and excessive regulation.

Over the past several months, members of the nightlife community have been involved in discussions with our neighbors and community leaders. It is clear that there are essentially four key issues which are of concern 1) better enforcement of existing noise standards, 2) litter, 3) rowdy behavior, and 4) lack of timely and complete notification to the city of new liquor license applicants. Each of these concerns is legitimate, and we believe we have solid proposals on how to effectively address them.

SeattleNMA believes it is appropriate to establish a set of reasonable and enforceable standards for late night drinking establishments. Furthermore, there are a number of additional late night issues – completely unrelated to drinking establishments – which affect our city and quality of life. However, we do not believe that either the state's

proposed new regulations or those proposed by the mayor meet this objective, nor solve many of late night issues. Rather they create additional layers of bureaucratic regulations, which are difficult to enforce and negatively impact the stated goal of creating a “safe and vibrant nightlife.”

In this regard, we request that you table the current ordinance proposed by the mayor and work with members of the nightlife and music community, the full council as well as the WSLCB to create a process to develop a comprehensive plan to address these and other emerging nightlife issues.

Thank you again for your support of the music and nightlife community and your interest in our viewpoints. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our representative Tim Hatley at 206-579-8611 to discuss this matter in detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Jeff Steichen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Steichen" clearly legible.

Jeff Steichen, President
Seattle Music and Nightlife Association and the Showbox Theatre.