



SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

March 2, 2009

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, ^{HR} Deputy Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

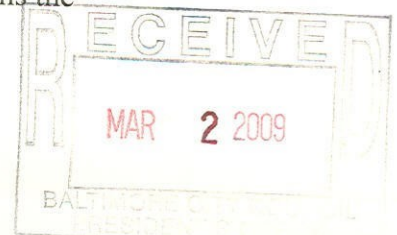
RE: City Council Bill No. 08-0163-Live Entertainment-Licensing and
Regulation, Hospitality Services-Promotion and Coordination

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 08-0163-Live Entertainment-Licensing and Regulation, Hospitality Services-Promotion and Coordination. The proposed legislation would delete live entertainment and dancing as a zoning use category; require the licensing of certain establishments that provide live entertainment or dancing; establish a Board of Licenses for Live Entertainment; and establish an Office of Hospitality Services.

In 2007, Council President Rawlings –Blake created a task force of many stakeholders, community members, and city agencies to include the BPD, who participated in a study about Baltimore's nightlife and the issue of live entertainment. The report, "Managing an Emerging Nighttime Economy-Roundtable Discussion Summary Report" issued several recommendations to include creating a system for licensing live entertainment establishments.

The Department stands willing to continue to assist in the City's collective efforts in this area and would offer several recommendations to the Committee to address overall public safety concerns. Although § 10-17 (B) allows the Board to consider issues surrounding noise, the size of the establishment, the number of persons attending the event, traffic, and security concerns, the BPD recommends that any regulating procedure also take into account overall public safety concerns of the neighborhood surrounding venues for entertainment. It remains the

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business' responsibility to provide a safe environment for its customers. Over the last several years, the BPD has observed a greater relationship of violence associated with a growing number of entertainment establishments and therefore a corresponding deployment of resources.

Additionally, the proposed legislation in § 10-22 allows for the posting of objections to the application. Equally important, it is recommended that the committee consider provisions that would allow for an immediate closure of the business if the public safety so warrants and a hearing upon the closure to determine if the license should be suspended or revoked.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Frederick H. Bealefeld III, Police Commissioner, BPD
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Sheryl Goldstein, MOCJ