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Live Music in Mount Pleasant Restaurants

Passed by five to zero vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of July 10, 2006, with a quorum present.

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to delete the complete and absolute prohibition clause of live music, live entertainment, and disk jockeys from voluntary agreements attached to Class CR licenses in Mount Pleasant.

Why: The Mount Pleasant commercial strip is all too quiet at night, so quiet that people returning home late at night, from the bus stop or the Metro station, are concerned about having to walk nearly deserted streets. Doing away with the absolute ban should bring more patrons to Mt. Pleasant Street. In addition, elimination of the absolute ban will allow for a fair, case by case review of license applications.

The number of restaurants that would be capable of offering live music or entertainment in Mount Pleasant is small, and their dimensions are also small, so any increase in patronage of Mount Pleasant restaurants due to the added attraction of entertainment would be modest. Excessively loud music, which can be caused by recorded audio systems as well as live bands, is limited by existing noise regulations, and so is not a valid objection to live music in restaurants. Residents of Mount Pleasant have complained that, if they want live music or entertainment with their meals, they must trek all the way to Adams Morgan, or to the U Street corridor. Some Mount Pleasant residents want live music and entertainment here. Our restaurants should be permitted to serve those residents, so long as the effect on "peace, order and quiet" in this neighborhood is modest and tolerable. ANC 1D will continue to work with the business community to help assure that is the case.

ANC 1D believes that permitting live entertainment and live music will significantly enhance the economic viability of businesses along Mt. Pleasant Street, which have reported substantial losses of patronage and revenue in recent years. Furthermore, the ethnic flavor and cultural diversity of Mt. Pleasant are suppressed by these prohibitions.