

RESOLUTION CONCERNING MUSICAL VENUES 2

Whereas VID believes that excessive noise and traffic outside musical venues, as with any live art form or public assembly, presents a serious problem to some residents in the surrounding neighborhood;

Whereas VID believes that the clubs and theatres provide a direct benefit to all community members in that they provide a direct source of revenue for Village restaurants and stores, and the additional pedestrians contributes to the safety of our neighborhood;

Whereas VID believes that live music is essential to the artistic and cultural life of the Village and highly valued by the community;

Whereas VID believes that the Village has traditionally been one of the world's most active musical scenes and the home for some of the greatest voices of our generation including Bob Dylan and Lou Reed;

Whereas VID believes that many people in the community live here because the music and culture is so close at hand;

Whereas live music is an expression of new ideas and political sentiment, a reflection of our society and ourselves, an outlet for entertainment, and a voice for the youth;

Whereas VID believes that recently musical venues in the Village have been forced to close down, i.e. the Rock Hotel on Jane Street, or threatened with closure due to noise and traffic complaints, exorbitant rents, selective enforcement of code violations, and a sudden intolerance towards people who attend live music venues;

Whereas VID believes that musicians clearly miss the loss of such venues and feel they have no outlet to play and carry out their livelihood;

BE IT RESOLVED

That VID, other community groups, and elected officials should play an active role negotiating between the musical venues and the surrounding neighborhood so as to balance and preserve the community interests involved (It should be noted that VID successfully played such a role in regard to the Rocky Horror Show).

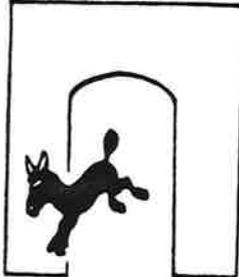
That the following possible solutions, as well as other tailored solutions, to easing the problems of excessive noise and traffic outside some musical venues should be strongly considered:

1. Have taxis line up a block or two away from the club and direct people to these lines.
2. Have announcements made in clubs and signs posted stating that people leave quietly.
3. Have club owners and employees alert clientele to the problems of noise and to the trouble some people are facing trying to sleep.
4. Provide garbage cans outside the clubs to prevent the littering of bottles and cans.
5. Provide employees or police officers to direct traffic and prevent traffic jams.

That VID, ~~and~~ the community and our elected officials should work towards providing increased access for musical space and preserving live music venues and other cultural forms in the Village since they are important to the people who live here and essential to ^{the} identity and well-being of our community.

Community affairs - 1/7/86

Very

INDEPENDENT
VILLAGE  DEMOCRATS

RESOLUTION ON THE PALLADIUM AND CAT CLUB NOISE PROBLEM

WHEREAS, there are constant traffic jams in front of the Palladium and Cat Club caused by automobiles, taxis and limosines dropping off, picking up and waiting for patrons of these two clubs; and

WHEREAS, a constant din of noise is created in the neighborhood surrounding the Cat Club and the Palladium; and

WHEREAS, this noise occurs late at night due to the nature of clubs; and

WHEREAS, this noise has caused deprivation of sleep over long periods of time which is harmful to health; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the affected area have repeatedly complained to the managements of the Cat Club, the Palladium and to their elected officials to no avail; and

WHEREAS, the local Police Precinct is either unable or unwilling to provide sufficient police coverage to work on the traffic problem; and

WHEREAS, often the Police contribute to the late night noise problem by using bullhorns; and

WHEREAS, the State Liquor Authority has been unhelpful; and

WHEREAS, the practice of selectively choosing patrons who may enter these establishments, while leaving others to wait in the streets for long periods of time, is not only unfair, but further creates undue and unnecessary noise and havoc outside the clubs and within the community; and

WHEREAS, the spirit and intent of this resolution does not negate VID's recognition of the important contributions made by artists, musicians, and places of performance to the quality of life to our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that VID appeals to the public frequenting these clubs to use self-discipline and courtesy towards the people living in the area and cut out the excessive street noise, further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the VID calls upon the Palladium and the Cat Club to post noticed and make announcements inside their clubs concerning the seriousness of the noise problem outside of the clubs; further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the VID call upon all of its elected officials to bring pressure on the Cat Club and the Palladium to control the outside noise problem, further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the VID call upon Police Commissioner Ben Ward to station adequate police in the area to control traffic and keep the noise outside to a level so that people can sleep, further

BE IT RESOLVED, that VID call upon the Traffic Department to look into changing the traffic regulation in the area to help alleviate the problem, further

BE IT RESOLVED, that VID offer its services to negotiate between the club owners and the surrounding neighborhood so that all community interests involved can be addressed adequately.

Passed by Village Independent Democrats General Membership on January 13, 1986



February 5, 1986

Councilwoman Carol Greitzer
51 Chambers Street, Room 429
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Ms. Greitzer:

My name is John Bello and I do a live radio show on WBAI-FM. I am also writing on behalf of the Alternative Press & Radio Council For Greater New York, of which I am a Vice-President. This organization is currently composed of 40 voting members from seven radio stations and more than 15 periodicals, and is particularly concerned with the health of alternative, non-commercial rock & roll. Our listeners and readers include thousands of young adults resident in lower Manhattan.

Various members of the Alternative Press & Radio Council have been hearing reports from a numbers of sources that you have been actively involved in the closings of New York clubs featuring live rock & roll. Clubs which have involuntarily closed recently include the Rock Hotel, Peppermint Lounge, and 8BC. Clubs which appear to be threatened include Irving Plaza and Danceteria.

The Alternative Press & Radio Council is dismayed by these closings and fears for future of the remaining clubs. We feel that this represents an assault against the young adults of New York. These live music fans, who normally would enjoy themselves at a club, will have no place to go. They probably will end up hanging out on the streets, only to get hassled by the police for loitering. Where are these young adults to go?

There are few other places to go, but most of these young adults cannot afford high prices for a night out. They work during the week and deserve a good live band, in a good club, at a good price. Secondly, the closing of clubs is a severe threat to the art of music. The abolishment of live music is an abolishment of art. New York, especially the Village, and its immediate surroundings, cannot let this happen.

Another important aspect is the unemployment of workers at the clubs and the musicians, most of whom are barely surviving financially. This is a serious problem and should be dealt with the utmost concern for the people involved.

Since it is not clear to the Alternative Press & Radio Council what your role and opinions are, I would like to invite you, on behalf of the Council, to a broadcast meeting with us. The invitation also extends to guest of yours. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss and inform, as the problem of closing down the clubs is important to us and the community alike, and should concern you.

I will contact you in a week or so. Please make time for this important meeting. If you would like to contact me, call WBAI and leave a message. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

John Bello
John Bello, Vice-President
The Alternative Press & Radio
For Greater New York

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THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS & RADIO COUNCIL

For Greater New York

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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Pat Duncan

VICE PRESIDENTS

John Bello (RADIO)

Stephen Donaldson (PRESS)

CORRESPONDENT

Jim Testa

TREASURER

Paula Hitchcock

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS & RADIO COUNCIL?

The Council is loose, cooperative association of radio and zine people, including artists and photographers. It has a "primary focus on "punk" (understood as an attitude or mode of thought or feeling rather than just a musical genre) but "remains open to other influences".

The Council has institutional members (listed left), about 40 Voting Members, At-large Members, and anyone who wants to work on our projects may become a Supporting Member.

We started up in late August and have met eight times; we have no By-laws and so far have not had to take a formal vote on anything. The Council has no authority over its members and is as close to anarchic as a functioning organization can get. We even rotate the chair at each meeting.

The Council can be seen as operating in two ways: one is to provide services to its members. This ranges from exchanging zines, tapes, records, information, etc. to holding joint press conferences with people who might otherwise be hard for us to all reach; to date we have done this with the Dead Kennedys and DOA.

STAFF

COORDINATOR

Stephen Donaldson

ASST. COORDINATORS

Cindy Aiello (NJ)

Connie Barrett (NYC)

John Bello (CT)

Bill Nubile (LI)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

RADIO SECTION:

WBAI

WBAU

WCHE

WFDU

WFMU

WJSV

WMSC

WNYU

WPIR

WRSU

WSTB

WUSB

PRESS SECTION:

Artists & Writers Underground

Attitude

Basket Case

Berserker

Cancer

Counterculture

Crashing Waves

Flipside

Earwax / Subwax

Grinsnip

Hardcore 4NJ

Hardcore Promotions

Jersey Beat

Maximum Rock & Roll

Mindless Plains

Point Of View

Prairie Sun

Rotten Foetus

Seconds

Smash Apathy

Spin

Sporadic Droolings

Tse-Tse Fly

Violin Outbreak

Worthless

Writers Block

Yuk

HOW DOES THE COUNCIL SERVE THE COMMUNITY?

All of us are interested in helping to build our community, therefore the Council is actively engaged in a number of projects and planning more. We have an Upcoming Shows Service, and hope to use money from the benefit to install a 24-hour-a-day phone line giving up-to-the-minute show information to callers from the public (at present our Upcoming Shows Service operates to provide the information to our members who in turn pass it on to the public)....We are involving ourselves in local community politics in order to keep more of our clubs from being closed down....We are planning to put out a series of compilations recorded live at CBGB's in order to spread the New York Area sound around the world....

We publish a Directory of radio programs, zines, and clubs in the area and will be publishing a Band Directory shortly--to obtain a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to our Correspondent, Jim Testa.

We are hoping to put on a film festival and an art show....We are looking for vans to rent in order to launch a Van Pool Service to take fans to shows in nearby but out-of-City clubs...We are hoping to purchase a professional-quality multi-copy high-speed tape duplicator which we would make available to bands wanting to put out demos...There are many other projects we would like to undertake, as people become available to do them and money becomes available as well.

At this point, the Council is the only organization with community-wide interests, so we would like to act as a focus for anyone who wants to contribute to the scene in a positive way. We can use any volunteers who are responsible and willing to work on projects. If you'd like to do so, please contact us or come to one of our meetings, which are open to the public.

Also, many of our member publications are looking for additional staff; no experience necessary.

We're working For Greater New York. Care to join us?

"THINK FOR YOURSELF"

To The Editor:

The Village Independent Democrats has a proud history of fighting to preserve the diversity of the Village, while at the same time seeking just solutions to the conflicts that necessarily arise out of that diversity. In the past the club played an active role in negotiating between the management of the Rocky Horror Picture Show and the surrounding community with regard to noise and traffic control outside the theater. Most recently VID supported tenants living in the vicinity of the Palladium in their efforts to control noise from pedestrian and vehicular traffic ^{caused} by the disco and joined ^{the community} ~~them~~ on the picket lines. ^{In our efforts to control noise} ~~Some of~~ our leaders went to the police precinct, community council and ~~Community Board~~ ^{Board} ³ and contacted various public officials. As a result of this combined effort, No Standing signs have been put up and steps have been taken to change the traffic flow.

Last year our District Leaders testified for the Noise Bill Intro #894 and took the position that they would not support revisions in the "cabaret law" until there was a noise bill in place. That Noise Bill was signed by the Mayor in December 1985. We now feel it is time to come out in support of our musicians by calling for passage of Intro #357 introduced by Council Members ^{Ruth} Friedlander and Messinger.

Miniam

We believe that a rational approach to the problem of noise is to directly control noise levels and not the sort of instruments to be played. Those who are holding up the passage of Intro #357 are trying to cloud the perception of what is a very simple

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piece of legislation, by making it into a noise issue. Intro #357 has nothing to do with noise. It merely seeks to rectify the current ^{situation} ~~system~~ of job discrimination against certain musicians that is the result of the enforcement of archaic rulings which arbitrarily specify which instruments may or may not be played.

It has been brought to our attention by members of the community that Intro #894 is not working. We feel that efforts to regulate noise should be directed at putting more teeth into that bill to make it more effective. Measures such as increased penalties for clubs not complying with noise levels and more resources given to police and environmental inspectors to ensure the enforcement of those penalties should be instituted, ~~to give~~ ^{must be given} The community ~~the~~ assurance they need that they will be protected from harrassment by undo noise. Toward this end we invite the community to come to our club meetings and work with us to get such measures implemented.

The community and the musicians are not in opposition to each other. We in VID see musicians and artists as an integral part of our community ^{and the city at large} and we highly value the contribution they make to the cultural life of the Village. At a time when artists are being driven out of our city by escalating rents, it is urgent that leaders of the community support measures to assure their survival. VID has long stood against gentrification of our community. If we do not support our artists, we will soon witness ~~its sterilization.~~ ^{not only gentrification, but a complete loss of} our city's creative vitality.

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