

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20004

April 30, 2021

CC: The DC Council Committee on the Whole, Chairman Phil Mendelson, Councilmember Kenyon McDuffie, Councilmember Charles Allen, Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Councilmember Christina Henderson, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George, Councilmember Robert White, Councilmember Mary Cheh, Councilmember Trayon White, Councilmember Elissa Silverman, Councilmember Vincent Gray, Director Shawn Townsend, Deputy Mayor John Falcicchio, Director Andrew Trueblood, Director Angie Gates and Director Maryann Lombardi

RE: Proposal from the DC Music Community on a data-informed, coordinated approach to reopen DC's live music venues.

Dear Mayor Bowser and Members of the DC Council,

The DC Music Stakeholder Coalition supports the efforts of the DC government to vaccinate the residents of the District while maintaining necessary public health measures to accelerate the return to full economic and social life. We applaud the parts of the new guidelines that permit live music outdoors for summer gardens, courtyard dining and sidewalk cafes controlled by restaurants.

We are concerned, though, that the restrictions on live music performance and indoor audience size are causing needless economic damage to the live music and entertainment businesses in DC. Small to medium sized venues will not be able to operate at a loss with capacity restrictions and will be forced to remain shuttered. We fear that additional venues may be forced to close before they are allowed to resume their entertainment schedules under the current guidelines.

We want to work with DC Health and other city officials to create a framework that will allow music venues to return to hosting live music performance at or near full capacity. This framework may need to include some form of vaccine mandate for live music performances indoors. This approach may be essential to sustain these vital businesses in DC, and also to provide additional incentives to residents and guests to get vaccinated. As former Baltimore health commissioner Dr. Leana Wen said recently on CNN, "We need to make it clear (...) that the vaccine is the ticket back to pre-pandemic life."

Our stakeholders efforts are part of a national campaign to develop practical reopening guidelines. Other groups that are bringing forth guidelines include the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) and the Reopen Every Venue Safely (REVS) campaign of the Music Policy Forum and Sound Music Cities. We urge the administration seek input from the venues

signed on to this letter as well as the national cohorts that have been working for months to provide guidelines for bringing live music back in a safe and expedient manner.

There are many views on the preferred way to bring live music back. The following is a draft proposal put forward by the undersigned businesses and community stakeholder to provide a safe environment for people to enjoy live entertainment. We welcome the opportunity to refine these guidelines in collaboration with public health experts, applying relevant scientific research findings.

- Live entertainment venues can operate at near full capacity (75%) and host live music performances.
- All audience members must provide some form of official documentation that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Venue owners will consider the card provided by the CDC to be sufficient for this purpose, and will consider other similar forms of documentation that may be presented. People without required documentation will not be admitted. Vaccination confirmation must match personal identification
- Venues will collect the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all attendees to support contact tracing.
- Venues will require attendees to remain masked when not actively eating or drinking.
- Venues will provide attendees with a list of suggested safety recommendations as part of the ticket purchase or admission process.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Members of the DC Music Stakeholder Coalition,

Christopher Naoum - Listen Local First DC

Oren Levine - musician and composer

Maija Rejman-musician, composer and presenter

Sandra Basanti- Pie Shop

Rob Coltun - Bossa Bistro

Bill Spieler - DC9 Nightclub

Aaron Myers - Artist/Advocate: Chair, Capitol Hill Jazz Foundation

Julianne Brienza, Capital Fringe Festival

Matt Singer - DC Jazz Festival

Andrew Grant - Director of Music Eaton DC

Miles Ryan - 7DrumCity, The Pocket, & Flashband

Derrick Parker-Tropicalia

Jessica F. Teachey - The Wammie Awards + DC Funk Parade

Evan Moses - Attorney and Band Leader of Rock Creek Kings

Jenny Langer - EastCoast Entertainment Agent, Band Leader of Moonshine Society

Dior Ashley Brown - Performing/Recording Artist and Founder of the DC Music Summit

Jamie Sandel - CapitalBop

Erik Bergman - Neighborhood Restaurant Group/Snallygaster

