

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO ITS EVENT BYLAWS

We are patrons and enthusiastic supporters of all London's major festivals. We moved downtown to be closer to the vitality of the city's core but we also believed that the city created a balance with the bylaws regarding sound levels and time limits.

### HEARING LOSS AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

a. Loud music damages hearing. Decibel levels and therefore damage levels increase exponentially.

b. Eric Johnson (Indiana U. Law Faculty) - Hearing loss is irreversible. 10 million + Americans have hearing loss attributable to noise exposure. The problem is increasing. At 120 Db., hearing damage starts in less than 60 minutes even if earplugs are worn.

c. The Health and Safety Act states that, as well as having a responsibility for protecting the hearing of employees at risk of damage from loud noise, the employer has a responsibility to the members of the public as well. Can the city be held legally and financially responsible for damage caused by events it has sanctioned?

d. A short survey of allowable decibel levels in various North American, British and Australian jurisdictions shows that a limit of 90 – 100 Db. Is general with penalties including "pulling the plug" where the limit is ignored.

"ROCK THE PARK" RUNS FROM 9 am until 1 am.

a. Performance hours are currently 4 pm – 11pm. Sound checks begin as early as 9 am. Beverage tents remain open after 11 pm, some with amplified music. This means that 1. There is loud music for as much as 14 hours a day for 4 days running.

b. Because beverage tents remain open after the concert finishes, patrons (often drunk) are still in the area as late as 1 am. If the current hours are extended, this could mean that patrons would remain wandering in the neighbourhoods up to as late as 3 am. (note: the City of London is currently considering allowing alcohol in Victoria Park during special events)

c. With events downtown ending at 11 pm, patrons who still wish to celebrate or listen to live music can move to some of the many downtown London bars and clubs. Extending event hours discourages this and actively competes with businesses in the core area.

### QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE AND "LONGER AND LOUDER"

a. Difficulty of attracting "big name" performers – we have already attracted such stars as Meatloaf, Randy Bachman and Alice Cooper (several stars more than once).

- b. The event does not end at 11 pm. Patrons of the beverage tents can remain, if they wish, to listen to music at reasonable levels in the tent.
- c. Assuming that music is better if "louder and longer" is like assuming a Christmas present is better if it is bigger and shinier.

## CULTURAL VARIETY IN LONDON

Several of London's politicians have suggested that we don't want to give the impression through our cultural atmosphere that Londo is a "no fun city". It should therefore be pointed out that London is home to over 40 theatre companies (excluding school theatre programs), thousands of visual artists and musicians, as well as dozens of choirs many of which are nationally and internationally award winning. We have dozens of festivals attracting as many as 250,000 people to some events over a weekend. The JLC is one of the top performance venues in North America. Orchestra London is recognized as one of the top orchestras in Canada. The Grand Theatre regularly features actors who have performed in Stratford and on major stages in Toronto and on Broadway, as well as on TV and in films.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Bice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "K" and "B".

Respectfully submitted,  
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