

# **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

*No. 322*

**Approved July 14, 2014**

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council has an obligation to ensure the public welfare and good order of the city; and

WHEREAS, The City Council in January 2013 issued the Entertainment Licensing and Nightclub Safety Report and Recommendations which identified policies, city ordinances, and state laws that were necessary to maintain and expand a dynamic and robust nightlife in Providence, and to ensure the safe enjoyment of the city's nighttime arts, entertainment, and cultural offerings; and

WHEREAS, The City Council worked collaboratively with nightclub owners, residents, and representatives from business improvement and civic organizations, and City officials including the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Police, and the Board of Licenses to promote a safe and vibrant nightlife in Providence; and

WHEREAS, The City Council adopted legislative reforms in 2013 including closing loopholes on floor host registration, creating a new event promoter licensing process, clarifying and expanding the requirements for entertainment licenses, and improving safety and security at commercial parking areas in close proximity to nightclubs; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Licenses in 2013 adopted policies and procedures regarding its hearing process; and

WHEREAS, While many improvements have been achieved in relation to nightlife policies and regulations in Providence, license violations continue to occur, and violent incidents are reported at or nearby various nightclub venues throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Public safety at nightclubs remains a significant concern for the city; and

WHEREAS, A proposal to expand the "soft closing" pilot program-which allows a small number of clubs Downtown which normally close at 2 a.m. on weekends to stay open until 3 a.m.-to include clubs citywide, is currently before the Board of Licenses; and

WHEREAS, The results of the pilot program have not been presented to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, The proposal to expand the "soft closing" time citywide needs careful study and justification prior to implementation, in order to ensure that the positive gains the City has achieved relating to nightclub safety are not undermined.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Office of Public Safety Commissioner and the Providence Police Department provide to the City Council a report of the three-year soft closing program and the nightclubs within the pilot (including those that have closed since its inception), to include the following:

1. Public Safety calls and response, from 2011 to present;
2. Documented incidents, from 2011 to present;
3. Documented violations from 2011 to present; and
4. Number of nights additional police officers called from regular posts to respond to incidents, from 2011 to present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Office of the Public Safety Commissioner present a plan for implementing a citywide 3 a.m. "soft closing," to include:

1. Allocating police officers and resources at 3 a.m. closing time to manage crowds;
2. Monitoring illegal advertisement of "3 a.m. closing" by nightclubs; and
3. Ensuring compliance with the proposed regulations associated with the 3 a.m. closing, including locking doors at 1 a.m. to prohibit new patrons, turning on lights, lowering the music, and serving only non-alcoholic beverages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Office of Economic Development provide an analysis of Providence's nightlife economy and the proposed 3 a.m. "soft closing" to include:



- 1) Comparison of nightclub closing time with other New England cities;
- 2) Models of public safety and crowd dispersal at nightclub closing time in other New England cities;
- 3) Potential economic impact on clubs with capacity of less than 200, which would not be eligible for the program;
- 4) Number of food establishments that should be available to patrons upon exiting nightclubs at 3 a.m., based on experience in other cities with late nightclub closing hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon approval, copies of this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Police, the Director of Economic Development, and the License Administrator, and that all requested information be provided to the City Council no later than August 1, 2014.


IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 02 2014

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.  
  
ACTING CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE

  
Mayor  
Date: 7/14/14