SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE NO. BL2026-1432

An ordinance amending Chapter 2.147 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws relative to the Nashville Entertainment Commission.

WHEREAS, the Office of Music, Film and Entertainment ("Office of Entertainment") was created in 2022, and the Music, Film and Entertainment Commission ("the Commission") was created in 2023 to address the growing creative needs in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Commission suggested additional recommendations to improve its operations and asked for amendments to Substitute Ordinance No. BL2022-1631 to streamline the processes and the efficacy of both entities to maintain future consistency for the office and personnel; and

WHEREAS, the suggested recommendations were sent to a mayoral working group, and without informing the Commission, the working group made commission structure recommendations that were not in line with the original function and purpose of the Commission, including transferring control of the hiring process of the executive director from the Commission to the Mayor's Office; and

WHEREAS, in order to move the commission's work forward, a compromise was agreed to where the Office of Entertainment was removed from the Mayor's Office and the commission would collaborate with the Department of Human Resources to interview, select, and send the candidates to the Mayor to interview and hire; and,

WHEREAS, in February of 2026, the hiring process was finally completed and yielded two candidates sent to the Mayor to interview and hire. However, after completing the interviews, the Mayor defunded the Nashville Office of Entertainment in his recommended operating budget instead of announcing its new executive director; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and the Nashville Office of Entertainment deserve to be able to complete their intended functions without internal impediment; and

WHEREAS, there is a candidate ready to begin this position as a result of the recent hiring process, and an announcement could be made immediately since the office was funded again; and

WHEREAS, the funded budget of $300,000 will cover the cost of the executive director, one coordinator and other priorities needed to open the office.

~~WHEREAS, the Commission and the Office of Entertainment have been repeatedly devalued by this mayoral administration over the last three years and deserve to be able to complete the functions intended without impediment. These commissioners are the experts in their field, not the Mayor's Office; and~~

~~WHEREAS, there is a candidate ready to begin this position as a result of the recent hiring process, and the commission could make the announcement immediately once the office is funded; and~~

~~WHEREAS, this office was never intended to be controlled by any mayoral administration because the issues that are occurring now and that have occurred in past attempts always led to failure; and~~

~~WHEREAS, in order to be successful, this office needs to live outside of the Mayor's Office so that the commission and our commissioners can thrive as intended. There are no staffing issues as the re-funded budget of $300,000 will cover the cost of the executive director, one coordinator and other priorities needed to open the office.~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Section 2.147.050.C of the Metropolitan Code of Laws is hereby amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

C. Recruit and hire the executive director who shall serve as the executive director of the commission and of the office of entertainment.

Section 2. That Section 2.147.065 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws is hereby amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

2.147.065 – Staffing and organization.

A. The office of entertainment shall be managed by an executive director who reports to the entertainment commission. The mayor shall appoint an executive director within thirty days of receiving the commission's recommendations or notify the commission within that time that no candidate will be selected. If no candidate is selected, the commission shall select a new set of candidates for hiring, which may include new or existing candidates. For all executive director searches active on July 1, 2026, in which the commission has submitted candidates for the mayor's consideration, the thirty-day time limit shall begin on the effective date of this section.

B. The executive director may be removed by the mayor only after consultation with the chair of the commission or another member of the commission chosen by the commission specifically for this consultation purpose.

C. The executive director and any staff shall be organized under the office of the mayor for a transitional period of one year from the effective date of this section. The metropolitan council may extend the transitional period for one additional six-month period by resolution. The transitional period shall not last longer than eighteen months. During this transitional period, the executive director shall provide quarterly reports to the metropolitan council arts, parks, libraries, and entertainment committee, or its successor committee, to show development towards becoming an independent office. The executive director and any staff shall be organized under the commission following this transitional period.

~~The work of the commission and of the office of entertainment shall be managed by an executive director. The executive director of the commission shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. The commission will work in conjunction with the department of human resources on application and selection process. The commission will conduct interviews for the hiring of an executive director.~~

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its final passage, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

SPONSORED BY:

Joy Styles
Jacob Kupin
Ginny Welsch
Thom Druffel
Members of Council