Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2021-927, **Version:** 1

A resolution requesting the Metropolitan Planning Department, Metro Arts Commission: Nashville Office of Arts & Culture, Metropolitan Historical Commission, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to partner together to take an inventory of every music venue in Nashville to better inform the Metropolitan Government as to how best to preserve, sustain, and support these venues for the decades to come.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major financial hardship for local music venues that depend on live concerts for their survival; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the Metropolitan Council approved Resolution No. RS2020-515 to appropriate $2,000,000 in federal CARES Act funds to provide financial support to locally-owned, independent music venues; and

WHEREAS, the planned sale of Exit/In, Nashville's oldest rock music club, has brought to light the potentially devastating effects the loss of our locally-owned, independent music venues would have on our economy and the fabric of our culture; and

WHEREAS, the potential loss of the Exit/In's status as a locally-owned, independent venue is just the latest in a series of events that have pitted the preservation of historic music establishments against the economic realities associated with development in a thriving city; and

WHEREAS, thus far, the city has operated in a reactionary mode whenever historic venues are slated for closure or demolition; and

WHEREAS, having an inventory of all music venues in Nashville would help the city focus its efforts on finding solutions to ensure the preservation and sustainability of these venues; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Department, Metro Arts Commission: Nashville Office of Arts & Culture, Metropolitan Historical Commission, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, and the Nashville Area of Chamber of Commerce all possess unique skillsets that could help with such a music venue study; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council express its desire for an inventory study of all music venues as more specifically described below.

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

Section 1. That the Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as requesting the Metropolitan Planning Department, Metro Arts Commission: Nashville Office of Arts & Culture, Metropolitan Historical Commission, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to partner together to take an inventory of every music venue in Nashville to better inform the Metropolitan Government as to how best to preserve these venues for the decades to come. Such study should include the following for each identified venue:

1. The owner(s) of the venue.

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2. The name of the person/entity that operates and books acts at the venue.
3. The genres of music frequently booked at the venue.
4. The age of the venue and a description of its history.
5. The capacity of the venue.
6. The current zoning designation for the venue.
7. If other than the owner, whether the current operators have a long-term lease to use and operate the facility as a music venue.
8. Any recommended actions the Metropolitan Government can take to preserve and sustain the facility as a music venue.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Planning Commission Executive Director Lucy Kempf, Arts Commission Executive Director Caroline Vincent, Historical Commission Executive Director Tim Walker, Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation President & CEO Butch Spyridon, and Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Ralph Schulz.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.