

C.O.R.E.

Coalition for Ongoing Rave Excellence Project

A volunteer group working on projects affecting the rave community.

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1st C.O.R.E. Report to the City of Calgary

December 2000 & re-submitted with additional information on July 18, 2001

The CORE members would like to thank you for considering our report relevant to the 1st quarter of the post-by-law period. We hope that our recommendations and observations can assist in the development of improvements to the existing rave related regulations.

We have consulted many individuals in our community and extracted their views for you in this report. You will see their comments throughout this document.

Defining C.O.R.E.

- ◆ A coalition of concerned representatives has formed to address the current challenges presently facing the rave community. The group, consisting of a diverse collection of people, is known as "C.O.R.E" (Coalition for Ongoing Rave Excellence).
- ◆ CORE has come forward to address the heightened public concerns surrounding rave events and to establish a positive relationship of cooperation between rave participants and the community at large.
- ◆ Representatives of CORE wish to work with city officials to establish effective guidelines and regulations to address public issues that pertain to larger rave events. By working with the civic decision-makers, CORE hopes to help make an effective arrangement that meets the needs of both the city and the rave community.
- ◆ To increase awareness and understanding, CORE is preparing a campaign of public education addressing people from parents, event guests, civic officials, business owners, and residents of communities where raves are held. The campaign aims to dispel myths surrounding the rave community, as well as cover issues such as safety and risk reduction.
- ◆ In spite of a small number of unfortunate incidents, raves, by and large, are positive events; providing a sense of identity and belonging for a diverse cross-section of people.
- ◆ Through its efforts, CORE hopes to foster a healthy, long-term relationship between the city and the rave community.

C.O.R.E. Mission

- ❖ To foster functional and positive conduct within the electronic music community by providing realistic guidelines for event promoters, guests, venue owners, parents and relevant organizations while upholding the principles of the community's culture and ideology.
- ❖ To promote quality community development and public/media relations.
- ❖ To minimize harm and risk within the community through active partnerships with existing organizations (SafeWorks, Aids Calgary, ADDAC, RaveSafe and others).
- ❖ To regularly disseminate educational materials to the community.
- ❖ To monitor the impact of regulatory provisions on the welfare of the community and to advise regulatory bodies toward the improvement and refinement of any applicable regulations.

Our Report on the Extended Dance Events Issues

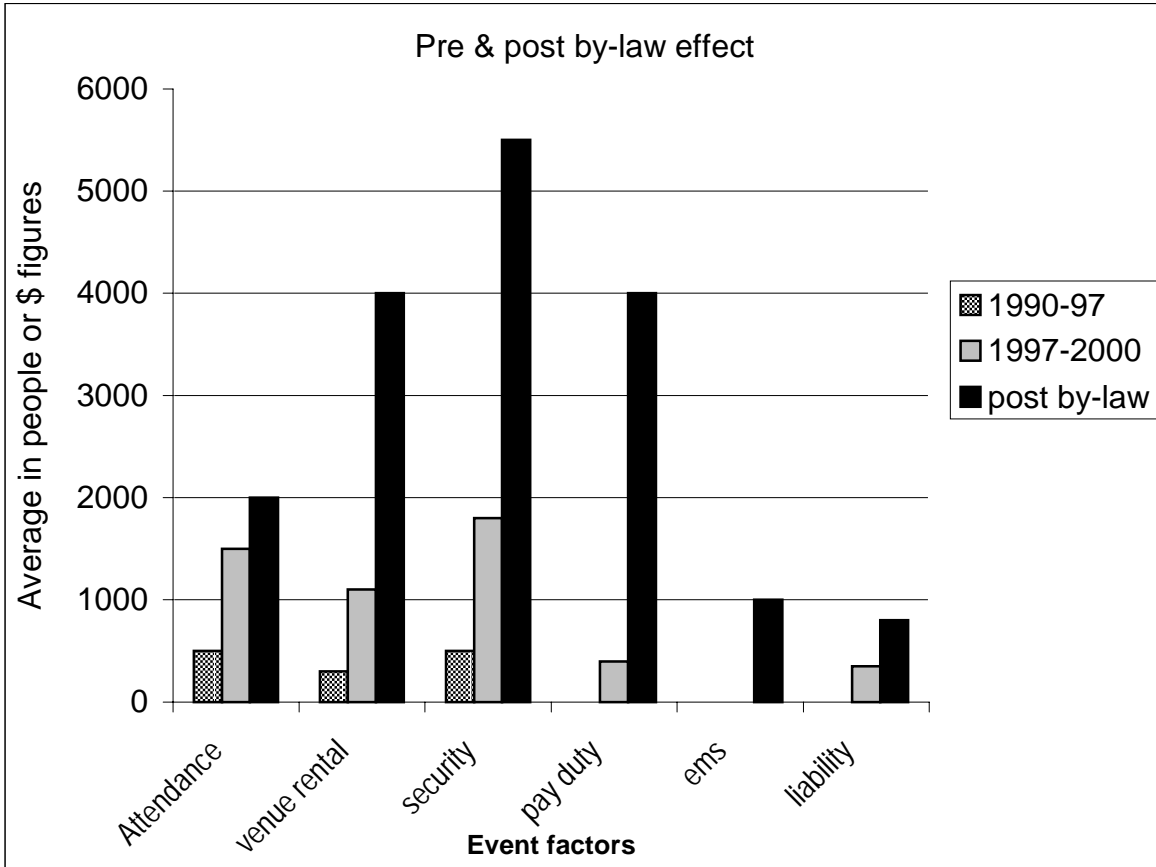
□ Financial Ripple Effect

After August 18, 2000 Extended Dance Events By-Law 34M2000 requires an application fee of \$250 per event/per promoter/per venue. Although this amount is modest, we have observed a significant increase in associated costs such as Pay Duty Officers, Security, EMS.

Furthermore, due to the heightened negative media attention, liability insurance premiums have increased dramatically.

Please note the summary/chart on the next page. The figures are our preliminary averages.

	1990-1997 Raves in Calgary	Prior to the By-Law 1997 - mid 2000	After the By-Law Aug.18/00	Our comments
Event Ticket prices (dependent on size of the event)	\$5-8 early 90's \$8-15 mid 90's	\$10 - \$20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$18-25 for events under 250 people. \$25 - 45+ for over 250, and rising. (\$80 tickets reported in July 2001) 	One of the major factors contributing to the severe ticket prices increase is the significant increase in event operating costs.
Attendance span	50-700 people	100 - 2000 people	250 - 2800 people	We contribute this increase to general public awareness, media coverage and promoters' attempt to attract larger crowds to cover costs and increase revenue, esp. for large events.
Venue Rental costs	\$0 (donated) - \$300	\$400 (halls) - \$1100 (arenas)	\$1,000 - 10,000 (Note: Even venues for small events under \$250 people are now asking \$1000 rental)	We believe that this is a result of the media awareness and current Calgary venue shortage.
Security costs	volunteers or \$7-10/hr rate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small events: 5-8 security Med-large: 10-25 (\$1600) 	volunteers or \$7-12/hr rate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small events: 5-8 security Med-large: 10-30 (\$1600-1800) 	\$4800 - 6700, average number of security guards: 30-35 for large events	This is a very significant increase in costs. The promoter can no longer utilize any volunteer staff.
Pay Duty Officers costs	Only for large events: 1 pay duty office during peak hours only. (\$300-400)	Only for large events: 1 pay duty office during peak hours only. (\$300-400)	\$2500 - 5300 for large events (4-8 police)	Although the number of police officers was originally supposed to be chosen by the promoter, the promoter now has very little choice in the numbers of officers.
EMS/Medical	n/a (not required, no perceived need)	n/a (not required, no perceived need)	\$1000 - 1300 for large events	These costs have not been incurred prior to the by-law. The number of personnel are strongly suggested to the promoter by authorities.
Liability Insurance	Usually not requested. \$350/event, \$1200/year	Usually not requested. \$350/event, \$1200/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$650 - 2500 for large events. \$650 - 1300 for small events even under 250 guests. 	There were no significant insurance claims in the Calgary area over the past 10 years that we are aware of. We believe that is a result of the negative publicity in the media.



FROM A RESPONDENT: "...The costs for the increased security, paramedics, permits, etc has resulted in an increase in the cost of parties which has been passed on to the ravers. Although, some of us can afford this new luxury (which it is becoming) it leaves others unable to afford such events.

For the large parties, I notice the individuals attending to be a much older crowd... Perhaps this is due to the increase in the cost of the party. The by-law seems to have created more weekend club nights and after hours for less than 250 people.

From my perspective, it takes away from Calgary promoters being able to bring in big name DJ's for smaller parties (400 - 800 people) because the costs become to high. To avoid the permits for big named DJ's (i.e., having parties for under 250 people, promoters will have to charge about \$ 40+ per ticket which is very expensive).

FROM A PROMOTER: "...As a promoter in the community, I have hosted 4 events in the city, with a combined attendance of over 5000 people. With only bonded, trained and licensed security professionals - at ratio of 1 to every 100 people expected at each event - I have never had any security concerns. No stabbing, no drug dealers and no arrests. Fire safety is another critical concern - each exit is monitored by security staff to ensure they are clear, and adequate exit-width's and capacity are met. I have had a fire inspector visit one of my events and comment: I wish every rave was done this well; - a comment I have very high regard for. Since the passing of the by-law I have not held any events. Why? Please understand my costs, as a promoter, to hold an event prior to the by-law: Security 10-20 guards at \$15 an hour, for 8 hours, Rent \$2000-3500+, music and lights equipment rental:

\$2000-4000 DJ's: Flight's + Booking Fees \$200-2500 per DJ (with a norm of 4-6 DJ's per night) Cleanup Crew: \$500 Promotional Flyers: Design and Printing \$2000 Now, add on the fact that with the regulations that are in the current by-law for approval, including capacity and impact on residential areas, I can ONLY book Max Bell. My last event, attendance of 1500, cost over \$25,000 to put on. Increase costs by 20% to hold it at Max Bell, and 20% to pay for police and city medical staff, and we're either going to have to charge \$40+ per person or have 2500 attend. Neither are viable options so we have effectively eradicated legal events in the 250-1500 person range..."

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...It's that silly 250 people or less thing or you have to get a license. I know a lot of people that have missed out on smaller events because of tickets being sold out in the first few days. Like I've heard you say before: Your small parties are for no profit, and everything is worked out so the party kids pay as little as possible " and you having to buy a license to have a party will make the tickets go up and parties unhappy. I just see no point in it. Do they like hurting the ravers pocket book?"

FROM A PROMOTER: "...Because of the limited room available at most parties, I have chosen to relocate my venue. I have not attended a real party in a long time. Instead, I have relocated to (site). I used to have a lot of fun at parties. Now, even if I bought a ticket, I was not guaranteed a place in the party, this is not entirely the by-law's fault. It also has to do with the promoters, security, and sometimes, even the DJ's. I joined the scene during the original (era), and I believe that I at least deserve some of the respect that I am not receiving from our scene. Some DJ's, who have only been spinning for less than two years somehow get the feeling that because this is a limited person party, that, it doesn't matter if I have purchased a \$40.00 ticket, they have R.O.A.R. restrictions and they are such hot shots, that they don't really have to care about their clientele.

...I mean, organized, specific raves, now that you've let the government and police have a little control, they're going to want more. Give em an inch, they'll take a mile. Pretty soon, (promoter) won't exist, because the government won't let it. I'm sorry, but ravers, DJ's, promoters, staff, are all accountable for the problems in the scene. Not just the Cops. It's not everybody, but it is a lot of people. We all started partying because we liked the music, how have we let the very people we opposed in the beginning push us around again?

Was the unity we once treasured and spoke of so eloquently. What has happened. This mainstream garbage is the reason the scene has by-laws.

The rave scene was not invented for politicians and promoters to line their pockets. Why can't the scene just live in peace, remember PLUR, our official conduct law, well we've, (yes, I also mean myself) pretty much (messed) up the best thing that we've ever had, and no matter how much we try, I'm not sure we'll ever be able to repair the damage that was done to our scene.

❑ Some Logistical Difficulties

A number of promoters found the Application process difficult. Some have opted out of applying altogether. Many experienced promoters are no longer able to stage events due to the extreme financial burden and risks.

FROM A PROMOTER: "...Before I applied for a permit, I asked (a person in licensing) what he thought of the location. I seek preliminary approval. I sent in drawings of our tents, and a certificate of fire retardant. (A person in licensing) said that he would have to have a meeting with FIRE, EMS, POLICE and Noise. A few days later he said that everything was ok and to go ahead. I was under the impression that he had had this meeting and that he had spoken to all of the

various agencies. If he hadn't why did I have to wait a week and a half for his answer on the location?

A total of 8 fire people showed up at my event (1 at the meeting), 5 the day before, 1 day of 1 night of.

Tuesday I dealt with two police officers. Initially it was Cst. "A". After vigorous negotiation we came to the agreement of 4 police officers.

Later that day I called Cst. "A" with a question from RaveSafe at 4 PM. Before I was able to open my mouth he told me that the file is now being taken care of by Cst. "B" and that there are many concerns.

Cst. "B" had not contacted me nor did Cst. "A" to inform me of the problems. Instead Cst. "B" proceeded to phone venue owner and tell him that there was a massive amount of problems and my permit was not going to be issued. He also explained to venue owner how much liability is being placed on the venue (which isn't true) and how bad of an idea raves are. Basically giving him the doomsday speech.

Wednesday afternoon (City licensing) phoned me to tell me that I would not be issued a permit and I would not be allowed to do my event. "There was just too many problems with different agencies". I was not going to be given the opportunity to address these concerns, nor was I given any information about the actual problems. He said "Parking, emergency vehicle access, and building permit"

He did not give me any contact information to speak with the agencies to address the concerns. It was a flat out "NO". I mentioned the preliminary approval of the event by various agencies and he said no such action had been taken and no such commitments had been made. Police EMS, and fire had just learned about the event. So what did Licensing not talk to the agencies? Or did he talk to someone in each agency and now a new person was assigned to the case?

I proceeded to phone Licensing, they said that he would look into it. 10 minutes later Licensing phoned me back and said that I had a meeting setup for Thursday at 9:00am with all of the agencies at the rugby club. 10 minutes after that Licensing phoned and said that the police would only let it happen if I had 12 officers at my event.

Information from my application was incorrectly conveyed to various authorities. Example: I was being told by the police that my expected attendance was 4000 people.

I do not know where their source of confusion came from other than a previous proposed location. I don't see how the capacity of a prior location would be mistaken for my expected attendance for a completely different location. This only speculation on my part as to the origin of their error.

On my application it stated : 2500 attendants, 3000 tickets printed. My actual attendance was 2000.

❑ **Elimination of mid size events**

- As a result of the increased costs of events, the mid size events have been financially prohibitive.
- Currently, events above 250 people and bellow 1000 have been eliminated since the onset of the By-Law. This is due to the lack of flexibility in the provisions regarding the Permit. It is widely believed by many promoters that they will lose money on their events under 1000 guests.
- Even though the intent of the regulations was to maintain flexibility in event design, this is not the case in reality. Promoters are told how many security personnel they will require and how many pay duty officers need to be hired. The current rules do not differentiate well between mid size and large events, leaving the promoters virtually with the same operating costs for both.

FROM A RESPONDENT "The bylaw still effectively eliminates the possibility of throwing 500 person parties. It's set up so that only small, tight parties can be thrown without getting a bazillion and one cops, ems personnel, etc. for the evening. This means you need at least 1000 people to break even if you want to go over 250. Some concessions have to be made for medium sized parties."

FROM A RESPONDENT "...well, I think my single biggest problem deals with the fact that expenses make it nearly impossible to throw a mid sized party anymore. They need a sliding scale I think of permit costs, number of security, paramedics etc, so the larger parties have greater costs, while smaller parties i.e. 250 - 700 have less, and that under 250 is still unaffected..."

OUR RECOMMENDATION:

- Provide provisions for a sliding scale of requirements during the application/proposal process. Set up a mid size category, if possible.
- Under the current provisions, many very responsible, experienced promoters in the city cannot put on events due to the prohibitive operating cost increase. Only those who are willing to risk extreme amounts of revenue can afford to organize events.

Police Pay Duty determine their own numbers

We have seen excessive Police presence at events. This has the following effects:

- a) Negative impact on event guests (events resemble a "prison"); guests feel excessively supervised.
- b) Extreme increase of costs to the promoters (see previous chart)

FROM A PROMOTER: " I found that dealing with the Police was bit difficult at times (during the application process)"

FROM A RESPONDENT: "I don't know if they would understand this, but cops diminish the vibe, and so does too much patrolling security, it can be that little shift on the line from another world of freedom, to police state and repression... Simply takes the edge of that really good party vibe that could have been great, but I think that I can transcend it, although I don't think that I should be asked to, but if forced... thanks for listening"

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...for me and my rave buddies, the rave bylaw hasn't really affected too much, except the fact that when we stay till the end of the party, the sun still hasn't risen when we are leaving to go home. We are also upset when we see more cops walking around at the scene, or just outside when we arrive at the party or leave the party. ...they give me the eeby jeebies...!"

OUR RECOMMENDATION:

- Allow for flexibility in determining police numbers. In the past, the event promoter hired PD officers to only serve during peak hours and not in high numbers. The Police was present to assist and advise the promoter only. The presence of the "uniform" (even 1 officer) was enough to deter troubles and promote assistance between the event promoter and the authorities.
- If many PD Officers are present, then allow less Security guards on site.

- Furthermore, promoters should be informed about what a PD Officer can and cannot do, role, duty etc. under the current by-law Permit.
- Also, allow for a better selection of PD Officers who may enjoy youth interaction.

FROM A RESPONDENT: I talked to a cop for like 20 minutes. He was the nicest cop I have ever talked to. He was saying that at the start of the party he was bored. Then he said "when this music (JUNGLE) came on, I started to sorta have fun" That's right JUNGLEIST COPS!!!! He was cool."

Licensing did not improve rave PR

We hoped that the Licensing process would help up legitimize our community. It has not accomplished it yet. Also, we hoped that it would help us secure good venues; this has not materialized either.

Lack of Venues

There is a severe shortage of new, suitable venues in Calgary. Event guests and promoters are searching new locations away from housing and general residential areas. This is a very difficult task at this time.

FROM A PROMOTER: "...the part of the by-law that states the venue can't be more than 200sq m or a permit is required even if its less than 250 people. This is a big problem. It's hard enough to get venues as it is without limiting it further and what about a chill space? 200sq m is fine for 200 people to dance in, but that leaves no room at all to hang out or get away from the music, which is something the city wants as part of a permitted party - so presumably they also would support that in a non-permitted party. I also think their should be some rationalization of the negative aspects of bars, clubs and school dances in comparison to raves. I think a comparison might show that raves aren't that big of a problem compared to some clubs!"

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...I am kinda getting sick of the same location weekend after weekend... I am happy that our way of life is still here but I just wish that restrictions weren't holding people back from throwing parties that were really big or really small.

I like the way it was before where you never knew where you were gonna be for a party and you never know how many people were gonna be there....but now you always know its gonna be big or small. Locations will be Fire Park or Max Bell...its getting kinda sickening.

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...The one main thing I have noticed since the by-law passed, that there are now big parties at Max Bell, that has brought so many losers and bar stars into the scene and you can't get away from them, they are even at the small tight parties. I haven't been partying for a super long time, but I've noticed it, and that's what all the Old Schoolers complain about. Yea, raves are for people to express them selves and have a good time and no one cares but now that parties are so "out in the open" It's ruining the vibe and its deteriorating our scene. These people don't go to parties for the real reason - to enjoy the great music and DJ's and to enjoy the vibe and the people, their there for mainly the drugs and that's sad.

But one good thing is that parties don't get shut down early unless they are underground and get jacked or there is violence..."

□ Security Companies treatment of Ravers

There have been reports of poor handling of the event guests by the Security personnel at various events. Due to the by-law recommendations to hire licensed and experienced security companies, many regular staff has been eliminated.

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...a friend of mine went to stand up and wound up putting her hand on a still-burning cigarette butt. She got a pretty nasty burn that we brought to the attention of the St. John's people, and they felt it was necessary to take her out to their ambulance to treat it, and another friend of mine went with her.

At the door, the security guards weren't going to let them out. They threatened to not let them back in once they left. When they pointed out that St John's REQUIRED them to go outside the tents for treatment, one guard said 'If you hurt yourself, you should just go home'. After my friend's hand got bandaged, they were hassled AGAIN getting back in to the party. One security guard even went so far as to say 'We shouldn't have to bend the rules just because you and your little friends decide to take E and start burning yourselves with cigarettes.'

The comment itself is pretty uncalled for, but what makes it all the more insulting is that we all were dead sober for the entire night. Not that that REALLY matters, though... I don't feel that attitude is particularly appropriate for someone being paid to ensure the safety of the people at the party (after all, that IS what security is there for).

I can appreciate how a no in/outs policy solves a lot of security headaches, but in this situation, to give my friends such a hard time, and then insult them on top of it... I say "bullshit".

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...This event's security was the bitchiest set of souls at the end of the night... Yelling at everyone to get the hell out, everyone around me barely even had the time to clean their stuff up. It's one happy night then it turns to hell just because every security person is screaming to get us out..... Are we ticket payers not the people who in fact are paying their wages as a security person?..."

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...I had an Asthma attack and a security guard told me that I should have remembered my puffer. (Which I should have) and told me that I could go and get it but I would have to pay \$45 to get back in. And they wouldn't even let me talk to the Saint Johns people because they said it was too far to go. I could HAVE died there in her arms. And she would have only been concerned about security. But the only way I got my PUFFER was by screaming at the paramedics to come and help me..."

FROM A MEDICAL STAFF: "...(this company) was stricter than usual at (event). I don't really know why but the next time St. John Ambulance work with them I will have a chat with the owner before the event and make sure that all of the security will cooperate with EMS personnel. If we think that a patient should go outside of the tent for treatment, we have a reason to, and they shouldn't question.

FROM A RESPONDENT: "...There have been various complaints made against them... particular individuals in their crew. (As a whole they are very effective.) From insults, and overkill on the "I am a tough security guy" so bow to me you worthless punk kid' attitude to putting someone's health in danger. Security is there to protect us (us as in everyone in the venue) from ourselves and us from other people (inside and out). They should not be there to act tough. I don't feel safer knowing that particular individuals from certain companies are there... I feel threatened. The next time I have a run in with a security personnel that is overstepping boundaries, I am taking their name and any information like that and

reporting it to their supervisor or calling the company myself to complain (in a constructive manner) these people are not god.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

We suggest that SOME utilization of civilian and volunteer staff is possible in along with regular authorities. This can reduce event costs and restore a more natural environment. We recommend that civilian staff take positions in non-risk latent roles, or where liability issues are not expected.

Promoters looking for out of town venues

Many promoters tried to get away from the by-law for various reasons, but were not very successful in securing venues outside of the city limits. A number of events were also broken up out side of the city limits.

FROM A RESPONDENT: The regulations for raves are already unreasonable. More so for small parties with more than 249 capacity. I read in the Sun that they are going to try to make the regulations even worse for low capacity parties. To the point where the parties thrown are only done by money hoarding promoters that don't mind charging \$50 a head. I've been looking at a couple of large warehouses in Canmore and Exshaw but they will only rent out for long periods at a time. I'm still looking into it. I spoke to a friend that lives out of town and he said there's large places there that will rent out for a night..."

FROM A PROMOTER: "...Down here in Medicine Hat....well everything seems to be falling apart. The Rave that some of my guys worked so hard and put a fair share of money into for last weekend got totally scraped! The RCMP come out there the day before the event after all the people are hired and the sound is there and the flyers are printed saying how there shutting in down before she starts and it's not happening..."

DJs pay affected

There are reports that the increased costs associated with the by-law are negatively affecting other sectors of the community.

FROM A DJ: "...As a DJ in the "party" community, we see the repercussions of the new by-law as well. The city is specifying many rules that promoters must follow in order to have a legal party that won't get shut down. These many rules come at a cost to the promoter. Extra medics increased security, the fee itself. All of these aspects come at a non-negotiable cost that drives the initial budget of a party through the roof leaving the only area of negotiation in what to pay the DJ's. Calgary has a lot of great talent and I am not saying that we all deserve a million dollars per party but I think you are getting my point. As a DJ speaking for all DJ's (I hope), that is how the new by-law is affecting us. I sure hope I don't come across as a money hungry guy, because I am not. I just don't think we should have to pay massive amounts of money on vinyl and work for nothing..."

Additional C.O.R.E. Recommendations

✧ **Central point of contact - The Licencing HUB?**

- It would be very helpful to establish ONE point of contact, a HUB to serve a promoter in the application process.
- Also, it would be helpful to receive all documentation regarding decisions in writing to all parties involved in the licensing process.

✧ **City event approval and licencing needs to be finalized promptly**

- Many promoters need to know very quickly about their approval of their event. This process has not been expedited at this point. If permit and documentation is not finalized early, the promoter will lose flight tickets for Talent, possible venue space, ticket sales and other associated costs.

✧ **Promoters could determine their needs based on experience and past record**

As stated from our letter to The City in July 2000:

“The proposed by-law’s openness in a number of areas assures that each rented venue is assessed individually, considering a multitude of variables such as expected attendance, time-lines, location, security requirements or event theme. We believe that each event is strictly unique. Highly creative and diverse events are essential to our community. The proposed Bylaw reflects this requirement.”

- We recommend that promoters who have excellent references be allowed reasonable flexibility in event design, security measures and PD Officer numbers.
- We believe that safety and security can be accomplished without excessive costs.
- We believed that the Promoter should possess a degree of control over her/his event.

✧ **Permit-exempt Events under 249 guests (PROPOSED REVISIONS)**

As stated from our letter to The City in July 2000:

“Furthermore, a clear distinction between small events (250 people) and larger events was established. Over the past 10 years in Calgary, hundreds of small events took place, never causing any significant difficulties in respective communities or locations. These small events are the ideological backbone of our culture, designed to enhance its cohesiveness rather than generate revenue. We strongly believe that these small events can be “self-regulating” and continue to be successful if their mission. Excluding them from the Bylaw requirements is strongly recommended in order to alleviate unnecessary financial, temporal or logistical burden.”

- We kindly request that events under 249 are increased to accommodate Staff and Security above ticket sales. Currently, during these events, only 200 tickets can be

sold, leaving 49 spaces for staffing, informational and educational staff, talent and a few VIP guests (such as family members etc).

- We want to include Aids Calgary, SafeWorks and Rave Safe as our permanent booths at these small events, but currently these booths “cost” promoters lost revenue.
- Small events need a provision whereby the promoter can sell 250 tickets, and have staff in addition to the numbers present. We are kindly asking for an additional 50 spaces, increasing the provision of permit exempt events to 299 people in attendance, all inclusive. (This number changed to request 499, during July 18, 2001)
- **Rationale:** Event venues used to cost approximately \$300-400/night rental, now venues are requesting \$1000 rental rates. “249” events are no longer financially viable. On the current budgets, a small event cannot afford to hire strong DJ/musician talent, pay a flight ticket, work permit and fees. Increasing to “299”, would generate much needed revenue to sustain these small events.

✧ **Youth friendly security education**

- The CORE group will prepare an educational pamphlet available to Security Companies.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK from the community

FROM A RESPONDENT: “...I am new to the rave community, so new in fact that my first rave was a week before the bylaw was to take effect. The other raves I have gone to have been regulated by the new rules. In my opinion, the new rules are sufficient to allow for some flexibility on promoters parts and are more than adequate to ensure our safety. The raves that I have gone to made me feel more than safe and the security and provisions for facilities were more than enough.

I do not believe further regulation of raves is necessary and doing so will only drives raves underground where there will be no control over the situation. Dangerous locations, no one to go to with medical emergencies, and total lack of right of admission are all factors that would more or less stop me from going. I like to feels safe with people looking out for me in case. More regulation would be overkill. I have enjoyed the parties I have gone to and will continue to go to by-law approved raves and parties under 250 at my own risk.

I cannot say that the new bylaws have affected me greatly, only that more control will result in an underground movement that would create a very bad taste in many peoples' mouth.

The council must realize what they are dealing with here is not just a few party kids, but a movement of people that is revolutionizing the way in which the world will someday work. The ideals of raves are help true.

P.L.U.R. is not just a statement, but a way of thinking and has molded a culture. My life has changed greatly since I discovered this new way of thinking. This is a powerful thing. To try and control it would be like trying to tame a wildfire with a garden hose. More control will make us go a new direction and I fear something will be lost and my discovery will not be so awesome anymore.... thanks...”



CORE group will...

- A. Maintain regular CORE meetings
- B. Hold a focal position in our community
- C. Collect Promoter feedback forms for data analysis
- D. Invite guest speakers at CORE meetings, such as the Fire Dept, Police Dept, Licensing etc...
- E. Distribute Educational information in order to promote safety and responsibility in our community and Calgary's community at large.
- F. Stay as the City Task Force partner and a Stakeholder.
- G. Help translate documents into plain English
- H. Provide more quarterly reports to the City
- I. Maintain information binders at Feroshus and Phonics Record stores for easy access (additional sites for easy-access will be searched).
- J. Will develop a functional web site
- K. Set up educational booths at events
- L. Develop a press release
- M. Public Awareness & improve PR

Background Information

Raves: A brief History of the Movement

(Prepared by: Lucie)

The Rave culture originated as a very unique social movement in the late 80's in Britain and USA. It became more prominent in Canada in the very early 90's and celebrates its 10-year anniversary in Calgary this year.

Raves, unlike many other more visible youth movements, manifest themselves in a passive stance. In its pure form, the ideology which dominates this culture is that of "internal tourism": a holiday from everyday and from your everyday itself (Reynolds, 1998)*. Neither subversive, nor conformist, the rave culture is hard to define in conventional terms. Melechi (1993) believes that raves are a form of "collective disappearance", not exhibitionism. Rietveld (1993) states:

"Rather than creating a spectacle of resistance or 'alternative' patterns of living, the rave offered a release from day to day realities, a temporary escapist disappearance like the weekend or holiday. It was never felt that a critical distance was necessary. Rather, there was an offensive against the established order by negating its rationale, through the surrender to a void." (Redhead, 1993)

Although many young "Ravers" do not investigate this culture's history in depth anymore, the most important elements are still present today. When we ask individuals what a rave means to them, they are most likely to tell you that it is about a sense of belonging, connection and unity.

"To me, it is the music the people and the vibe (yeah I know everyone says it but its the truth. I've been raving for about 2 years and I have never once done drugs at a party or seen a fight break out, so all this bad press gets to me. When I am at a party I can release, I forget all my problems and I just dance and chat and have fun and it overwhelms me. No matter how much people talk about the negative aspects of the scene it is the people that make the party and that keeps the scene alive and that's why I'm a Raver. I've never met more open

minded, kind people and never heard such good muzik!" Ails (Calgary)

"...To me they have that positive vibe for me to keep on living in this shitty world. Well, let's just say raves are what we needed. It is something good that has come in our world. It shows me that there is hope for people to become as one, to live together in peace. To experience new ideas and fashion. Well, pretty much as everyone in the room are best friends with one another. BEST FRIENDS living in the world of fantasies in paradise. P.L.U.R." Ian (Calgary)

The feeling of belonging, acceptance and familiarity is universal. Rave music, mostly absent in vocals, provides a single language, uniform across the world. It transcends any differences in race, gender, culture or age. By definition, Raves are for all ages, non-violent, alcohol free and placed in ever changing non-traditional venues. Its flexibility and creativity is a trade mark, unparalleled in any modern entertainment. But it is more than entertainment. Many Ravers feel that it is a lifestyle and a belief system, -- stronger than the sum of its parts.

The group energy is infectious. It is not uncommon for people to describe a form of tribal experience at some of the events. Reynolds (1998) reports various instances where this culture clearly stands above a conventional past time:

"...At the end of the party, we were winding down, the sun was out, everyone was feeling pure and alive, in that communal unity feeling. Then someone in the middle of the floor started holding hands and putting their hands up in a circle. Kids were jumping from the back to put their hands up to touch the centerpoint where all the hands were interlocked. People had tears in their eyes..." (p.149)

A source of empowerment for many, raves propagate a number of ideals. In the mid 90's a

concept of P.L.U.R. emerged. It stands for Peace, Love, Unity and Respect. Idealistic, but indicative of the community's sentiment, additional R was later added for Responsibility. PLURR reflected the changing times of this community. As the population grew, so did some of the sore spots in terms of irresponsible promoters, ravers or venue operators.

Over the few years, Calgary's rave community grew from its original population of approximately 200 people to about 1500 by the mid 90's. Many new promoters entered to harvest a new lucrative trend. Techno music was quickly incorporated into popular culture and entertainment, club venues, and effectively utilized in advertisement campaigns for car manufacturers, youth clothing companies or electronic games. The fashion industry noticed the rave's flavor as well, -- switching from somewhat uncomfortable outfits to lose fitting, functional and comfortable garments. Home-made, baggy raver clothes were quickly replaced by brand name hybrids. A whole new industry was born. In the music world, electronic music was the "next big thing". Many motion picture producers invested in this genre of music, appreciating its universal appeal and adaptability. By the late 90's, rave culture was completely "above ground", leaving theoretical frictions to be endlessly debated between the "Old Schoolers" and the new blood.

A radical shift from a purist ideology to a full-scale business enterprise paved the way for reaching phenomenal attendance at events.

Across the world, raves now attract thousands of guests. In Los Angeles, some events reach attendance of well over 20,000 people. An annual event in Germany peeks over 1 million guests. In some countries, raves are financially sponsored by their Travel & Tourism departments, realizing that raves are a full-scale tourist attraction, for which thousands of people will travel internationally.

In Calgary, raves grew exponentially over the past two years. With a constant influx of new promoters and Ravers, coupled with extremely visible advertising and promoting techniques, this community begins a new decade where accountability is crucial to its survival.

Despite of all the recent negative publicity and the community's acknowledged trouble spots, this culture is absolutely vital to Calgary's youth. The benefits are far reaching. We believe that by forming constructive links with other Calgary communities and departments, and through cooperation and communication, we can assume a new role in Calgary, -- as a safe, viable, and healthy option for young people who are interested in the Rave culture and the electronic music community.

"... If this precise moment feels like a pause for breath, it's only because there's so much yet to come." (Reynolds, 1998)

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** Complete bibliography and further recommended reading available upon request.*