

C.O.R.E.

Coalition for Ongoing Rave Excellence

A volunteer group working on projects affecting the rave community.

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**The report on the Extended Dance Events
By-law Amendments
to the S.P.C. ON OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT
"C.O.R.E. Supplement"**

Overview

- The Electronic Music Community has been in Calgary for the past 13 years.
- It originated as a social movement, -- a phenomenon of modern youth culture, which originated in the late 80's in North America and Great Britain.
- Today, as a global community, it is focused on positive growth, belonging, connection and unity.
- It creates alternatives to clubs/bars for people of all ages, who enjoy dancing and electronic dance music, socializing with people of similar interest.
- This community provides positive and unique events, adding a sense of identity and belonging.
- Dance event organization & promotion is a challenging process encompassing entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity in young people.

E.D.E. Bylaw

1. Until 2000, rave dance events have been virtually invisible in Calgary and captivated little media coverage.
2. During the Spring of 2000 however, some events attracted the attention of the surrounding community, media and city officials.
3. In response to the media attention and the pending formation of the "Extended dance Event By-Law", C.O.R.E. group was organized.
4. During 2000, The Extended Dance Events by-law was constructed and implemented in order to provide regulation.
5. Very early after its implementation, this by-law proved to be financially prohibitive and many event organizers were forced to retire.
6. We believe that safety & security can be achieved without incurring high costs.
7. We have requested amendments to the by-law in terms of:
 - Reducing the Pay Duty Police officer presence at events and addressing the overall high costs associated with licensing events in general.
 - Increasing the License-exempt provisions to include higher number of event guest
 - Clarifying numerous sections of the original by-law and
 - Harmonizing the interests of the City regulations with our community needs

Amendments

Request to address the following areas

Although CORE was consulted in the initial planning of the original bylaw, we have found the theory and practice of it to be different and the community has suffered some negative effects from the bylaw in the past 3 years.

CORE has facilitated numerous stakeholder meetings to discuss the amendment proposal. Information has been made public to the rave community for discussion and feedback, and has a significant support of an estimated 500 community members.

Most people were very pleased with the addition of license B, as the actual application of the existing bylaw makes events of this size financially impossible. With the proposed amendments, these key events may re-surface and strengthen our community.

1) Type A Licence:

Smaller events foster positive social cohesiveness and connections in the rave community. In the past 13 years small events have been trouble free while held in a large variety of unique venues.

The City's Issue Strategist, Susan Dewitt, expressed no serious concerns to us with 250 people events in her investigation last year, and we feel that 300 people events will continue to run smoothly and hope that they will not suffer because of these added restrictions of land use use.

As proposed, a license is not necessary for type A, however 7 days notice to the city is required. We are concerned that promoters may not find out about their chosen venue suitability promptly enough and that they may experience significant financial loss.

- Therefore, we kindly request prompt attention to this type of communication, and a quick notification of venue suitability.

2) Police Pay Duty (PD) Officers for Type A/B license.

The cost associated with Pay Duty is extremely prohibitive. We request that:

- No PD is present for these events (A, B).
- It is implicit in type A license, but we request explicit mention for B license.
- The Police Department should only be consulted for type C and beyond.

The community was pleased that license B would not require pay duty officers, as their costs are not realistic for that size of event. The current bylaw does not specify any pay duty officers necessary, however they have become part of obtaining a license. We fear that should this same type of practice occur with license B, this would once again become too financially restrictive. Furthermore, with the potential venue loss from type A - the small event culture would suffer greatly.

3) We request an ongoing consultation regarding the application of this by-law.

- Due to the unique nature of this bylaw, we request that an **ongoing communication** and feedback remains in place between the City officials and our community.
- We request a designated **Police Services representative** to
 - act as our liaison, and foster a positive link between our community and the Police Services,
 - recommend safety and security procedures during events while...
 - actively gain understanding of our culture and community, therefore streamlining PD services to reflect our events needs.
- We would like to thank all City representatives who have worked with us so far.
 - A special thank to Kent Pallister in Licensing for his outstanding accessibility and understanding of our needs in the bylaw process.
 - John Webster from Recreation Programs and Facilities for his help in providing us with a meeting place for our committee hours.

C.O.R.E.

The Coalition for Ongoing Rave Excellence

- ◆ Formed to address the current challenges facing the rave community, such as addressing public concerns surrounding rave events.
- ◆ Consists of diverse groups of people & represents a vast majority of the rave community.
- ◆ CORE wishes to work with city officials to establish effective guidelines and regulations to address public issues that pertain to larger rave events.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ CORE works to minimize harm and risk within the community through active partnerships with existing organizations (SafeWorks, AidsCalgary, ADDAC, RaveSafe and many others).
- ◆ CORE monitors the impact of regulatory provisions on the welfare of the community and to advise regulatory bodies toward the refinement of any applicable regulations, such as the Extended Dance Event By-Law.