

C.O.R.E.

Coalition for Ongoing Rave Excellence

A volunteer group working on projects affecting the rave community.

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Request for changes to the existing E.D.E. By-law

1. Increase the "249 attendees" limit for unlicensed events to "499"

- A) Small events (up to 500 people) have never been defined as a significant problem in the landscape of Calgary's arts and entertainment scene.
- B) These are community driven events, not large for-profit business ventures.
- C) Events with up to 499 attendees should be allowed to function without a license as community dances and other functions are exempt from the bylaw. Our small events function as community dances and have included up to 499 community members for years.
- D) There is a significant difference between small rave community events and events being held in nightclubs or similar establishments. During the past meeting (July 2001), we were told that there were difficulties reported with the "249" people events. Yet virtually all of these complaints are related to events held in nightclubs not the small rave community gatherings we wish to have amended.
- E) Excessive over-regulation & financial burden of the current E.D.E. By-law, has caused some of the rave community to go "underground", i.e., to stage invisible, unsafe, un-staffed events,
 - a. These events can have any or all of the following features: no staffing, no security volunteer or paid, no evacuation plan, no advance planning, no water access, faulty flooring, no heat, etc.
 - b. The rave community does not wish to see the safety and security of attendants compromised, however it is becoming apparent that the costs and restrictions of the by-law have begun to force some parts of the community to participate in events that are less safe, which goes against the original intent of the by-law.

2. Review of costs/logistics associated with licensed events

- A) The rave community understands that its events pose some unique regulatory challenges.
- B) The rave community agrees that in the case of larger events some formal regulation is desirable for the safety and security of participants and to ensure minimal disturbance to the public.
- C) The rave community does not agree with the current interpretation of the EDE by-law by officials, nor does the rave community agree with what it sees as an attempt to stifle an art form by imposing unprecedented financial burdens.
- D) While recognizing that EDE's pose a unique challenge to city officials and that it is something new for people to understand, there have been many instances of bureaucratic inefficiency and in some cases outright ignorance displayed by the many departments that are involved in issuing a license. Therefore
- E) We request the establishment a "POC" (point of contact person) who would act as a liaison between applicants and the various city departments involved in issuing a license.
- F) This would alleviate many of the communication problems that have occurred in the licensing process to date.

POLICE issues:

- A) There is no requirement for Police presence in the by-law, yet the Police will not approve a license without provision for paid duty officers in the application.
- B) Why are police insisting on their presence at the cost of \$68 per hour to the organizer when there is no legal requirement for their presence?
- C) We would question the use of valuable police resources at many smaller events and feel that there are alternatives to a continuous paid police presence.
- D) We agree that at some events their presence is desirable and would like to work with CPS to set appropriate paid duty officer to attendee ratios.

OUR DEFINITIONS:

- ✧ Small event: 1-500 people
- ✧ Medium: 500-1200
- ✧ Large: 1200-2500
- ✧ Very large: 2500+

Background

1. The Rave Community has been present in Calgary for the past 11 years.
2. It is a social movement, which originated in the late 80's in North America and Britain, -- a phenomenon of modern youth culture.
3. Rave culture's main focus is a sense of: community, belonging, connection and unity of its participants. Furthermore it endorses high cultural diversity, ethnical and ideological tolerance and freedom from violence.
4. It creates alternatives to conventional clubs/bars for people of all ages, who enjoy dancing and electronic dance music, socializing with others of similar interest.
5. 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.
6. Raves offer a safe place to dance, a positive change of mood & attitude, and both spoken & unspoken interaction with other participants.
7. Rave organization & promotion is a challenging process encompassing entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity in young people.
8. Until recently, rave dance events have been virtually invisible in Calgary and captivated little media coverage.
9. During the Spring of 2000 however, some events attracted the attention of the surrounding community, media and city officials.
10. In response to the media attention and the pending formation of the "Extended dance Event By-Law", CORE was organized.

C.O.R.E. BACKGROUND

- a) Formed to address the current challenges facing the rave community, such as addressing public concerns surrounding rave events.
- b) Consists of diverse groups of people & represents a vast majority of the rave community.
- c) CORE wishes to work with city officials to establish effective guidelines and regulations to address public issues that pertain to larger rave events.
- d) 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.
- e) CORE works to minimize harm and risk within the community through active partnerships with existing organizations (SafeWorks, Aids Calgary, ADDAC, RaveSafe and others).
- f) 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.