

TDO: NOVOSELIC

Chris Novoselic: Thank you. Hello, my name is Chris Novoselic. Tonight, I have my testimony in written form. I would like to submit it to each councilperson. Thank you very much. Thank you for this opportunity to testify at this City Council hearing. And I'm here to voice my support for the All-Ages Dance Ordinance as it was passed by this Council. I urge the Council to override the Mayor's veto and vote against any amendments. For 18 months, our music community has worked in good faith with the City Council, police, fire departments and City Attorney's Office to create comprehensive legislation that ensures a vibrant...vibrant and safe music scene for people of all ages. The AADO is responsible legislation that protects the interests of minors, parents, and the City government. The ordinance, without the amendments, requires that the venue be safe, meaning all city building, fires, and safety codes, regarding public assemblies, drug laws, and existing...existing laws protecting youth from sexual predators and violent crimes. There are provisions regarding security staff proportional to crowd sizes. Included in the original ordinance it's a mandate that promoters undergo criminal background checks. In addition, the AADO allows the city to pull a promoters license if they determine that unsafe conduct is occurring. This ordinance has been subject [coughs] subjected to much misunderstanding. Some journalist claims are outright irresponsible, sensational, and mean spirited. It's my belief that this misunderstanding is rooted in a myopic disdain for the music community. Seattle and music are synonymous. Why must some civic leaders always link music with social problems? Our music community has worked hard for all it's achieved. We've added so much to the legacy of Seattle as a city of world-class artistic expression. Yet we receive little support from our city leaders...from some in our city leadership. It's time to hear the music. The veto of the All-Ages Dance Ordinance and the proposed amendments are punitive actions against two of our city's greatest assets. The first asset is our youth. Creating opportunity for youth to assemble in a safe and regulated environment, is what the intention of the original ordinance is. Second, for our first-class music scene to thrive to the point of global prominence it has achieved in the face of a discouraging, municipal regulatory environment, that is an indication of our community's vitality and stature. I believe that putting into practice the All-Ages Dance Ordinance, without these amendments, will be service to our city at large. I urge the council to recall why they voted for it. Please override the mayor's veto and vote against any amendments. Thank you.

[members of the audience clap and cheer]

