

TDO: WALLA

Christopher Walla: Hello.

Councilmember: Hi.

Christopher Walla: Hi, City Council. Umm...my name is Christopher Walla. I play in a band called Death Cab for Cutie. I recently moved into the city for the first time in my life, having lived in the suburbs. Umm...I'm making my living as a musician and, um, that's how I'm paying my rent and my taxes and all that sort of thing. And first of all, I would like to thank you in--for the most part-- the Council for passing, what I think is a fantastic piece of legislation, which is the All-Ages Dance Ordinance. And when it comes time to rebut that on that Monday, I hope that you will remember why you passed that in the first place. Umm, I really only had a couple points. Short points. Ummm, the...the law as it stands presently, as the Teen Dance Ordinance, is something that is virtually unreadable by anybody who chooses to play by the rules. Any promoter who wants to obey the law and throw a legal, safe show in the eyes of the City, is essentially not able to do that and understands that the police department can pull out any number of wildcards in the Teen Dance Ordinance to shut down any events they feel like needs to be shut down. Ummm, I think that the All-Ages Dance Ordinance, at the very least, gives a promoter the opportunity to actually meet everything that he or she needs to meet for making that happen. Ummm, I would also like to say that...had the City of Seattle not been a partial sponsor in the Bumbershoot, umm, Festival, which happens every year, umm, any and all of the indoor standing-room shows at Bumbershoot would have been illegal under the present Teen Dance Ordinance. I think that's important to note.

[members of the audience clap and cheer]

Christopher Walla: I think it's also important to note that under either the current Teen Dance Ordinance or the proposed amendments to the new All-Ages Dance Ordinance, that, ummm, my friend, Kay can't bring her four-year-old Christian or her six-year-old Allison to come see my band play an all-ages event. Umm, and they're big fans of ours. And I think that's really sad. And I think that you should take that into consideration. Thanks for your time.

[members of the audience clap and cheer]