

October 29 2005

To: Members of the Milwaukee Common Council Licensing Committee
From: Fredrick G. Gordon

RE: Metro Milwaukee Entertainment Association

The Metro Milwaukee Entertainment Association (MMEA) is a consortium of licensed premises dedicated to providing quality entertainment venues for City of Milwaukee residents. MMEA is incorporated with the State of Wisconsin and has a pending application for a 501(c) (3) non profit status. Our membership is comprised of eight (8) establishments throughout the City of Milwaukee, and we represent over 50 years of providing diverse entertainment opportunities and options for an upscale clientele.

MMEA has been incorporated since May of 2005, and we meet monthly to discuss and create implementation strategies for building capacity and enhancing business opportunities for our members. We have met with several members of the Milwaukee Common Council, including Alderpersons Willie Wade and Michael McGee, Jr. MMEA has identified many important issues as a result of these discussions, and we appreciate the opportunity to address these issues with the members of the Licensing Committee.

The relationship between our members and the Milwaukee Police Department is the most important issue that we face as an organization and is critical to our very existence. We rely and depend on quality service and cooperation from the Department and seek ways of improving and enhancing our interaction with the Department regarding calls for service and intervention. Our major concern as business owners is the recording and filing of incident reports that arise from these calls. Many of our members have had incident reports written and filed against them, and these reports emanate from service calls made by them for assistance. The cumulative weight of these incident reports has created a chilling effect on our members who are reluctant to report incidents of property damage to their businesses and to their patrons. This problem is exacerbated when our members appear before the Licensing committee and have to answer to the incidents, which may result in substantial suspensions or non-renewal of their licenses.

MMEA is committed to enhancing the quality of life for our patrons throughout the City of Milwaukee. We are taxpayers, property owners and business people throughout this great city, and we appreciate the opportunity to present and discuss our concerns to this committee.