



JUL 26



NEWS MARYLAND SPORTS ORIOLES MONEY GOOD LIFE ENTERTAINMENT MARYLAND VOICES Search [ ] Go!

FINANCE BUSINESS INVESTORS REAL ESTATE JOBS TECHNOLOGY LIVING FOR LESS TECHNOLOGY DEALS

HOT TOPICS | Riding Out The Recession | Dream Home | Eileen Ambrose: Personal Finance | Hanah Cho: On The Job

Hertz Online Check-In. Be on the road within 10 minutes, guaranteed. Save \$35 when you book now. SAVE NOW Hertz

Home > Money & Spending > Real Estate

Text size [ ] [ ]

Zoning to create a livelier Baltimore Debate grows over bill to allow live entertainment in many more city venues

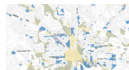
previous 1 2

By Annie Linskey | annie.linskey@baltsun.com July 26, 2009

E-mail Print Share Vote



Related



Proposed live entertainment expansion

Topics

- Interior Policy Restaurant and Catering Industry Sheila Dixon

See more topics >

The board has awarded 237 live entertainment licenses in Baltimore and has never revoked one, said liquor board spokesman Douglas Paige. The panel has received only three complaints about live entertainment since the 311 system was initiated, Paige said. But council members say they receive regular complaints about what they view as related activity: noisy patrons, parking violations and, in some cases, violence.

High-profile bar battles have left some communities skeptical about the ability of the zoning and liquor boards to effectively enforce their rules, even for extreme offenders. The Suite Ultralounge, a bottle club in Mount Vernon, was the scene of two shootings and a stabbing last year, and has remained open while the owners appeal the state liquor board's November decision to revoke its license.

Bar owners tend to view fines and violations as part of the cost of doing business, said Councilman James B. Kraft during a council debate in which he opposed the live entertainment bill.

The bill could be voted on again as early as Aug. 10, when the council next meets, but Rawlings-Blake said she wants to move forward on legislation that would give city regulatory agencies more teeth before making the live entertainment bill final. She introduced separate legislation that would give the city Health Department more authority to close operations that have multiple or unresolved environmental violations. Additionally, she wants to give police command staff the authority to shut down bars and restaurants that threaten public safety.

"One of the opportunities of this process has been to take a look at creative solutions to problems that have nothing to do with live entertainment," Rawlings-Blake said over breakfast at the Charm City Grille in Hollins Market, an area where two new restaurants have expressed interest in live entertainment.

The council president said she hopes that the prospect of enforcement problems will not distract from her goal of improving Baltimore night life, which she says compares unfavorably to that in cities such as Chicago and Nashville, Tenn. "When you experience life outside the borders of Baltimore, you see what potential there is in this city."

Bar owners in parts of the city where live entertainment is now prohibited agree. At Rumors Bar & Grill on East Monument Street, which offers cheap beer and \$10 crab feasts, owner Rudel Lattimore imagines inviting local DJs to spin upstairs or host weekly karaoke.

A few miles east, at Carlos O'Charlie's Sports Bar and Grille in Highlandtown, manager Roy Griffin wants to



People on the move

Submit photos and info for employees who have recently been promoted or hired at local businesses

Upload your own photo



Chat with Eileen Ambrose

Got bankruptcy questions? Ask a lawyer during Tuesday's live chat with Eileen Ambrose



A team player

Head of state's sports marketing office brought European soccer to Maryland • Photos: Chelsea FC vs. AC Milan

MOST VIEWED MOST E-MAILED

- 1. Dream home: Couple finds sanctuary in sprawling county rancher
2. Zoning to create a livelier Baltimore
3. How sellers lose their chance with buyers
4. Dream home of Diana Ramsay
5. A community where residents stay put

next >



bring in mariachi bands from El Salvador.

"The place would be packed," Griffin said. "We're getting people from **Patterson Park**, people who are intelligent and want more sophisticated entertainment." Now all he can do is offer a jukebox.

And developers like Patrick Turner, casting an eye toward the future, have found ways around the city's zoning rules by hammering out agreements with the community. He called the city's entertainment regulations "pretty antiquated" and has an exemption to allow live music in his planned Westport development.

"That is called planning ahead," Turner said of his project. "We are going to make this a destination entertainment area."

Baltimore Sun researcher Paul McCardell contributed to this article.

### Entertainment zoning

Rawlings-Blake's legislation would:

•Allow bars and restaurants to apply for a zoning change allowing live entertainment in the B2 business districts, which are scattered in various commercial corridors, including Federal Hill, Fells Point, Canton, Hollins Market, **Charles Village**, east North Avenue and York Road.

•Allow restaurants (but not bars) to apply for live entertainment in B1 districts, which include parts of Fells Point, Hampden and Highlandtown.

Current law:

•No live entertainment permitted in B1 and B2 zones.

•Bars and restaurants in B3, B4 and B5 zones, mostly downtown, can offer live entertainment without applying to the zoning board.

•Establishments in the industrial M1 and M2 districts on the fringes of the city can apply to the zoning board for permission to offer live entertainment.

[previous](#) [1](#) [2](#)

Copyright © 2009, **The Baltimore Sun**

	E-mail		Print		Digg		StumbleUpon		Reddit		Mixx	Share		Vote
--	--------	--	-------	--	------	--	-------------	--	--------	--	------	-------	--	------

### COMMENTS (3) | [Add Comment](#)

Who cares what the hell his name is. He's done virtually nothing for that neighborhood and owns almost all of the commercial buildings. Many businesses in the neighborhood will soon be sut out.

*pblake13 (07/26/2009, 10:36 AM)*

Why are the sun reporter so inept? Obviously this reporter talked to the owner of Pho, you think she could get his name right. That's why I rarely read the sun anymore.

*zaskar007 (07/26/2009, 9:07 AM)*

the owner of baltimore pho is named JIM collins. not TIM.

*myrial (07/26/2009, 8:05 AM)*

Business blog updates

**What a real estate agent can and can't tell you [The Real Estate Wonk]**

**The science of housing slumps [The Real Estate Wonk]**

**American Airlines bumps up baggage fees [Consuming Interests]**

[Read more](#)

Choose a link

**Battered Banks Break Loose To Higher Ground**

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

[P&G Lags Indexes But Stakes Hopes On Mix, Recovery](#)

[More Investment News »](#)



Today's Business

50 Jobs In 50 States In One Year

Dressing for the job interview

Obama's 600,000-JOB Plan

History of the iPhone

Maryland

- Baltimore City
- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Counties
- Crime & Courts
- Education
- Obituaries
- Traffic
- Weather
- Watchdog

Sports

- Ravens/Football
- Orioles/Baseball
- Minor League Baseball
- High School
- Men's Coll. Hoops
- Women's Coll. Hoops
- College Football
- College Lacrosse
- Maryland Terps
- College Sports
- Pro Basketball
- Horse Racing
- Golf
- Blast/Soccer
- Outdoors
- Archived Coverage

Money

- Personal Finance
- Business Investors
- Real Estate
- Jobs
- Technology
- Technology Deals

Conversations

- Readers respond
- Our View
- Commentary
- Columnists
- Blogs
- Talk Forums

Nation/World

- National Politics
- Science
- Weird News

Entertainment

- Celebrity News
- Arts & Theater
- Movies
- Movie times
- Music & Nightlife
- Food & Dining
- Recipes
- TV & Media
- TV listings
- Online games

The Good Life

- Home & Garden
- Health
- Green Living
- Parenting
- Travel
- Bay & Beach
- Faith
- Commuting

Classified

- Advertise
- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Apartments
- Home & Garden
- Celebrations
- Boats
- Personals
- Pets
- Grocery Coupons

Resources

- Subscriber Services
- Print Edition
- Feedback
- Contact Us
- RSS Feeds
- Twitter feeds
- Newsletters/Alerts
- Search/Archives
- Topic Galleries
- Reader Rewards
- Sun Store
- Sun Fan Shop
- Contests
- Special Sections
- Suntastic Specials
- Speakers' Bureau
- Media Kit



Print Edition | Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Search/Archive | Feedback | Contact Information | DC50tv  
 | Baltimore Sun | Chicago Tribune | Daily Press | Hartford Courant | LA Times | Orlando Sentinel | Sun Sentinel  
 | The Morning Call | The Virginia Gazette

Baltimore Sun, 501 N. Calvert Street, P.O. Box 1377, Baltimore, MD 21278

A Tribune Web site