

CLEVELAND MUSIC CLUBS

UNITE TO ASK FOR CHANGE

★ IN CITY OF CLEVELAND ★ ADMISSION TAX POLICY

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson is aggressively pursuing admissions tax revenue from small venues in the City of Cleveland, threatening to shutter clubs that have failed to pay back taxes and putting the city's reputation as the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" city at risk, and **endangering the city's music venues and musicians.**

Cleveland's music venues are subject to an **8% tax on admissions revenue**. This tax is much higher than most cities Cleveland's size charge, and significantly more than the surrounding suburbs charge. This tax is in addition to the taxes clubs pay on profits (if any), payroll taxes, property taxes and the cost of dance hall permits and live music licenses, not to mention fees paid to music licensing organizations like ASCAP, BMI and SESAC. The burden of these admissions taxes fall disproportionately on the city's smaller music venues because many of the larger non-profit venues, like Severance Hall and Playhouse Square, are exempt from paying the admissions tax.

SAVE THE MUSIC!

STEP 1: CALL THE MAYOR'S ACTION LINE
(216) 664-2900

**STEP 2: CALL, EMAIL & FACEBOOK, ALL
CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**
(SEE BACK FOR FULL DETAILS)

**★ THE CITY OF CLEVELAND'S ADMISSION TAX
★ SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE AMENDED TO ★
EXEMPT SMALLER MUSIC VENUES**

**★ THE "ROCK N' ROLL HALL OF FAME CITY"
★ SHOULD BE SUPPORTING MUSIC VENUES ★
NOT TAXING THEM OUT OF EXISTENCE**



CLEVELAND MUSIC CLUB COALITION IS: AGORA · BEACHLAND BALLROOM & TAVERN
BROTHERS LOUNGE · HAPPY DOG · NOW THAT'S CLASS · PEABODY'S CONCERT CLUB

HERE ARE A FEW FACTS TO DISCUSS WHEN CONTACTING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO ASK THEM TO REPEAL THE TAX:

THE TAX PUTS CLEVELAND VENUES AT A DISADVANTAGE TO THEIR NEIGHBORS.

Cleveland Hts. only charges a 3% tax, and Lakewood charges no admissions tax, giving clubs like the Grog Shop, The Winchester and The Phantasy an advantage over Cleveland-based clubs in booking acts.

THE TAX PUTS CLEVELAND AT A DISADVANTAGE TO OTHER CITIES.

Other nearby cities, like Columbus, charge no admissions tax, making them a more attractive draw for larger national acts, forcing local residents to miss shows, or travel to other cities to spend money to see their favorite acts. Most cities either don't charge this tax or have a tax in the 2% to 3% range. Other cities waive the tax on venues under a certain size (750 in Chicago, 1000 in Seattle to name two).

THE TAX HARMS SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE PEOPLE THAT WORK FOR THEM.

Cleveland's venues employ a significant, and growing, number of people, generating income tax revenue for the city. To the extent that the admissions tax deters growth at these existing venues or threatens to shutter them, and acts as an impediment to the creation of new venues, it prevents job growth - and even threatens to eliminate existing jobs - at a time when jobs, and the income tax they generate, are critical to the city.

THE TAX HARMS CLEVELAND-AREA MUSICIANS.

The tax the clubs must pay the city comes, at least in part, out of the pockets of the musicians. Cleveland has a rich musical community, but for that community to continue to thrive and grow, we must be able to pay the musicians to make the music. The revenue local musicians get playing local clubs supports practice space rental fees and recording costs, which also generate income tax revenue for the city.

THE TAX HURTS CLEVELAND'S EFFORTS TO MARKET ITSELF AS A MUSIC DESTINATION.

To the extent that clubs lose out on booking national acts, or musicians either give up on making music or move elsewhere to make it, or clubs close and others are deterred from opening new venues, these all negatively impact Cleveland as a tourist destination. Millions have been invested in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame - make sure people have a reason to get out of the museum and see what music Cleveland has to offer! Plus, the more they spend, the more jobs and the more tax revenue for the city.

THE TAX HURTS CLEVELAND'S EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE IT'S NEIGHBORHOODS.

The Beachland Ballroom & Tavern has long been a catalyst for development in the Waterloo Arts District, and the Happy Dog has been key in the recent development of the Gordon Square Arts District. Music venues are an economic driver in the re-development of these neighborhoods, making them attractive for investment, increasing property values and making Cleveland a more desirable destination city for young professionals.

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***We recommend cc'ing all council members when sending your emails**

Phone numbers can be found at: clevelandcitycouncil.org

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: Agora (216) 881-2221 · Beachland Ballroom & Tavern (216) 383-1124 · Brothers Lounge (216) 226-2767 · Happy Dog (216) 651-9474 · Now That's Class (216) 221-8576 · Peabody's Concert Club (216) 776-9999