

city of **yes** for economic opportunity

Guide to Nightlife

Today's confusing, outdated zoning regulations about nightlife and entertainment venues hold back this important industry in NYC.

city of yes for economic opportunity is a set of zoning changes to support NYC's economy, including industries like nightlife.



The Problem

NYC has a long history of discriminatory practices regulating dancing and nightlife through "cabaret laws." Our zoning rules are a relic of that history.

Even though the City repealed cabaret laws years ago, in certain areas, zoning still prohibits dancing in many bars, clubs, and restaurants.

Zoning also restricts music and comedy. For example, live music is allowed in bars and restaurants on any commercial street, but live comedy or open mic nights are not allowed in many of those same spaces.

The Solution

city of yes for economic opportunity would:

- Get NYC out of the business of regulating the act of dancing and instead provide regulations based on venue size.
- Regulate where entertainment venues can be located based on how big the venue is, not by what happens in the venue.
- At a small scale, allow comedy, DJs, dancing, and ticketed events in all commercial districts.

Venues would still be subject to permitting and enforcement by other agencies, such as the Department of Buildings, State Liquor Authority, and Fire Department. Larger nightlife venues would continue to be limited only to higher density or industrial areas of the city.

Questions or comments?

Please email NYC Planning at EconomicOpportunity@planning.nyc.gov.