



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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COMMITTEES:
RULES
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
MAJORITY STEERING

CHAIR
MANHATTAN DELEGATION

January 11, 2006

Governor George Pataki
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

State Liquor Authority Chair Edward Kelly has announced that he is leaving that position. We appreciate Mr. Kelly's career of public service.

This vacancy creates an opportunity to make the State Liquor Authority more responsive to community concerns. 39% of on-premises licenses issued by the SLA are issued to establishments in New York City. However, not one of the current commissioners is from the City. We urge you to correct this imbalance by appointing an SLA Chair from New York City, who understands the unique and complex relationship between the City's residential communities and its vibrant nightlife industry. It is important that someone familiar with neighborhood life in New York City is making decisions about approving license applications and enforcing the State's liquor laws here.

The communities we represent are very concerned about the impact that an excessive concentration of late-night bars and clubs has on neighborhood quality of life. Responsible nightlife operators want to be good neighbors and contributors to the City economy, but to do that they need the support of the SLA to stay in business and they need strong enforcement against the disruptive bars and clubs that give all nightlife spots a bad name.

When it comes to nightlife, New York City is unlike any other part of the State. The City's population density, and its status as the nation's entertainment capital, makes residents and late-night establishments unusually close neighbors. New York City's system of community boards adds an important element to the license approval process that requires an understanding of the purpose of that process. City residents deserve to know that someone familiar with our neighborhoods and our way of life is making decisions about approving license applications and enforcing the State's liquor laws here.

Please appoint as SLA chair a City resident who is committed to working with community leaders and the majority of bar and nightclub owners who run their establishments responsibly.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

Carl Andrews
State Senator

Martin Connor
State Senator

Thomas K. Duane
State Senator

Efrain Gonzalez Jr.
State Senator

Liz Krueger
State Senator

Velmanette Montgomery
State Senator

George Onorato
State Senator

Kevin Parker
State Senator

John D. Sabini
State Senator

Ada L. Smith
State Senator

Michael R. Benedetto
Assembly Member

Michael A. Benjamin
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Aurelia Greene
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Nettie Mayersohn
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Jimmy Meng
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Joan L. Millman
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Catherine Nolan
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Audrey I. Pheffer
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Naomi Rivera
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Steven Sanders
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William Scarborough
Assembly Member