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January 11, 2006

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

State Liquor Authority Chair Edward Kelly has announced that he is leaving that position.

This vacancy creates an opportunity to make the State Liquor Authority more responsive to community concerns. 39% of the 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 join us in calling on Governor Pataki 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.

Please urge the Governor to 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  
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Michael A. Benjamin  
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Ann M. Carrozza  
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William Colton  
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Vivian E. Cook  
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Michael Cusick  
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Jeffery Dinowitz  
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Richard N. Gottfried  
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Pete Grannis  
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Aurelia Greene  
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Andrew Hevesi  
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Joseph R. Lentol  
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Margaret Markey  
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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  
Assembly Member

Naomi Rivera  
Assembly Member

Steven Sanders  
Assembly Member

William Scarborough  
Assembly Member