

Reference #
16674874



DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0921: The Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection will present a bill for an ordinance amending Chapters 6, 7, 12, 32, and 53 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code repealing outdated amusement and cabaret license types, modernizing licensing provisions relating to entertainment licenses, updating application and license fees, and making conforming amendments to the Code. / 26-0921: El Departamento de Licencias y Protección al Consumidor presentará un proyecto de ley para una ordenanza que enmienda los Capítulos 6, 7, 12, 32 y 53 del Código Municipal Revisado de Denver, derogando tipos de licencias de entretenimiento y cabaré obsoletos, modernizando las disposiciones de licencias relacionadas con las licencias de entretenimiento, actualizando las tarifas de solicitudes y licencias, y realizando enmiendas de conformidad al Código.

First Name / Nombre

Isaac

Last Name / Apellido

Leon

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

Council District 1 / Distrito del consejo 1

I am / Estoy

Against the item / en contra del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Denver Finance & Business Committee,

Good morning. My name is Isaac Leon, and I'm the managing partner of The Front Porch, Roosevelt, and Canopy here in Denver.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Council Bill CB26-0921.

First, I want to be clear that I support the effort to modernize Denver's entertainment licensing code. Consolidating fourteen different license types into a simpler system makes sense.

Regulations should evolve with the industry, and I believe there are positive aspects of this proposal.

My concern is not with modernization itself. My concern is with asking independent businesses to make major operational decisions before the full cost of those decisions is known.

The discussion surrounding this ordinance has understandably focused on the possibility of venues remaining open until 4:00 a.m. While the bill makes clear that no business is required to apply for a nightlife license, I don't believe that reflects how competition actually works in our industry.

If enough venues begin operating until 4:00 a.m., customer behavior is likely to change. Guests begin going out later, entertainment shifts later into the evening, and businesses that continue closing at 2:00 a.m. may find themselves under increasing pressure to follow, even if extending their hours is not economically beneficial.

For many independent operators, this isn't a question of whether we're willing to work longer hours. We already do. It's whether staying open until 4:00 a.m. creates enough legitimate business to justify the additional labor, management, security, and operating costs. Today, that's a question none of us can answer with confidence.

The ordinance requires security plans, surveillance requirements, management availability, and other operational standards, yet many of the most significant details won't be determined until the rulemaking process later this year.

As business owners, we make investment decisions based on known costs. This ordinance asks businesses to make those decisions before many of those costs have even been defined.

If competitive pressures eventually push independent venues toward obtaining nightlife licenses simply to remain viable, operators could find themselves committing to a business model without knowing what compliance will ultimately require. That isn't a fully informed business decision. It's asking businesses to assume financial and operational risks that have yet to be established.

I also encourage the committee to consider the cumulative effect of these requirements. A registered manager on-site or immediately available during all hours of operation, additional security measures, surveillance requirements, and whatever standards emerge from rulemaking all represent real costs. For independent operators, those costs matter. Unlike larger organizations, many neighborhood businesses don't have the scale to absorb significant new operating expenses while waiting to see whether the additional hours generate enough revenue to offset them.

I respectfully ask the committee to consider whether it is appropriate to move forward with the 4:00 a.m. operating framework before the businesses affected understand the operational requirements that will accompany it.

I support modernizing Denver's licensing system. I simply believe independent operators deserve regulatory certainty before being asked to make long-term business decisions that could fundamentally change how they operate.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Finish Time

2026-06-23 00:57:32

Reference #
16674917



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First Name / Nombre

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Last Name / Apellido

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I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy

Neutral / Neutral

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Thank you Denver City Council finance and business committee for hearing this today. My

specific concern is with the Provisions section, specifically (c). In a world where sex workers continue to face exploitation, discrimination, and barriers to having our voices heard, I ask for a moment of consideration. The prospect of sensitive personal information being accessible to law enforcement without a warrant is not merely a privacy concern, it is a safety concern. Many sex workers already navigate significant stigma, bias, and vulnerability in their daily lives. Extending access to this information reinforces the systemic obstacles we continue to face and undermines trust in the institutions responsible for protecting our privacy. Every worker deserves the right to confidentiality and the assurance that their personal information will be safeguarded and a warrant be required to access the broad records. For sex workers, whose safety may already depend on maintaining this privacy, the consequences of disclosure can include harassment, discrimination, loss of housing or employment opportunities, and increased risk of violence. Privacy is not a privilege; it is a basic protection regardless of occupation.

Finish Time

2026-06-23 02:08:54

Reference #
16674922



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First Name / Nombre

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Last Name / Apellido

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I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy

Neutral / Neutral

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

As someone who has been an exotic dancer since the age of 19, I deeply stand in solidarity with

my sisters, who disagree with having our personal information being able to be accessed by the authorities without a warrant under provisions section (c). It is a breach of privacy and also goes against my rights as someone who does not want others to know what I choose to do in order to live. As a woman living in today's world, I am already being harassed and made to feel unsafe outside of the club that I work at. Working at the club gives me the opportunity to be able to work and to have my boundaries be respected and also to feel like I am in a safe and supportive environment. I do not feel comfortable or safe around any sort law-enforcement potentially having any access to any of my documents unless there is a warrant or subpoena, clarifying why they would need it. Exotic dancers already go through so much stigma and repercussions for us choosing this job. Law-enforcement has no business in my business, if I am conducting myself lawfully.

-EL

Finish Time

2026-06-23 02:11:33

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First Name / Nombre

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I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy

Neutral / Neutral

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

As an entertainer in Denver, I am concerned about any expansion of record retention

requirements for entertainment businesses as stated in section c. As it is written, this provision appears to allow government access to sensitive records without requiring a warrant, subpoena, court order, or any other such form of independent oversight. The nature of our work in the entertainment industry already requires us to provide highly sensitive and personal information including copies of identification documents, tax information, addresses and phone numbers, and even biometric data. It is a critical safety measure for us to maintain separation between our work and personal lives because harassment, stalking, and boundary violations are very real concerns. Easier access to data that is collected and retained about us puts us at even greater risk if that information were to be mishandled, improperly accessed, or exposed. These concerns are not hypothetical as many of us (including myself) have already experienced the consequences of inadequate data protection from these businesses after recent data breaches affecting thousands of entertainers. And when clubs retain sensitive information for years (as they do), we are forced to trust them with information that could compromise our privacy and personal safety long after it even serves any operational purpose. Given these realities, expanding access to worker records without guardrails only increases the risk to workers' privacy and security. It is pertinent that we reduce any unnecessary or unlawful access to/retention of records to protect our autonomy and safety by limiting not only the amount of sensitive information that exists, but where it exists and how long it remains vulnerable to misuse or exposure. I believe any government request for personal records should be subject to real oversight and clear limitations.

Finish Time

2026-06-23 02:13:30

Reference #
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First Name / Nombre

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I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy

Neutral / Neutral

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

I've worked in clubs in Denver since 2019 and, over that time, have come to understand the

importance of caution in this line of work. As strippers, we know to be careful with who gets access to information as simple as our name or our phone number. If a piece of personal information can lead from the club to my real life, I tend to be pretty protective of it.

So walking into a club and signing a contract, handing over your social security number, having your fingerprints taken feels a little bit like a leap of faith. I need this job, so have to trust that my information will be handled with care.

So far, it hasn't been. RCI's recent data breach, which inadvertently shared many entertainers' names and social security numbers, demonstrated that. The more information clubs are required to keep about us increases our risk of that information finding its way into the hands of someone who would use it to harm us. Requiring clubs to keep "records" for three years is extremely broad and allowing access upon request without a warrant makes me wonder what pieces of my personal information will be vulnerable. It feels terrifying to try to protect your personal privacy and safety when you don't even know what information might be accessed. On the other hand, this information being available to any law enforcement officer or city official (for, seemingly, any reason) makes me extremely nervous. I've had customers who fall into both of those groups and knowing that they could request my club's records and gain my personal information with no legal reason to do so is horrifying. If these records are kept, there need to be clear rules around who can access what information, required warrants or subpoenas, and there needs to be a good reason for them to need to do so.

Sex workers are still some of the most vulnerable people in our communities in terms of violence and knowing that clubs can and will protect my identity is crucial to me feeling safe at work. I hope that councilmembers will go back and amend this provision to keep entertainers safe.

Finish Time

2026-06-23 02:16:18