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PRESS RELEASE

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**Council Member Moskowitz Releases Report on Noisy Bars in Manhattan
Releases Top 10 List of Borough's Loudest Offenders**

Sunday, July 31, 2005 - At a press conference on the steps of City Hall, Council Member Eva Moskowitz released "At an Unhappy Hour", a report that investigates the city's most sleep-depriving bars and the enforcement lapses that keep them that way. According to new 311 data on noise complaints over the last year, the 10 loudest bars in the City are in Manhattan, and most of them are below 14th Street.

The report contains a never-before-seen list of the ten most complained about bars and also exposes the dysfunctional process by which noise complaints are dealt with. A lack of communication among city agencies, and the actions of the notoriously ineffective State Liquor Authority, deny sleep and peace of mind to thousands of New Yorkers.

"This City's nightlife is part of its identity, but that does not mean residents of some neighborhoods lose sleep over it," Council Member Moskowitz said. "Most bar and club owners play by the rules. For those that don't, there's got to be more effective enforcement of longstanding regulations."

Noise complaints rank #1 in 311 data, with 18,755 calls about noisy bars this year alone. The bulk of them come from Manhattan residents whose neighborhoods are dense with restaurants and bars.

Exhausting problem, simple solution:

Moskowitz offers three main recommendations to solve the noisy bar problem in Manhattan:

#1 Moskowitz calls for home rule for liquor licensing and the establishment of a City Liquor Authority.

#2 Moskowitz recommends the passage of a reporting bill that would allow the public to have oversight over noisy bars when city and state agencies fail them.

#3 In the absence of home rule for liquor licensing, Moskowitz recommends drastic reform of the State Liquor Authority. Moskowitz recommends the appointment of two commissioners who reside in New York City, and calls on the State Liquor Authority to revoke the licenses of New York City's worst offenders.

At the press conference, Moskowitz said, "Albany has turned a deaf ear to Manhattan's noisy bar complaints. This is an utterly solvable problem, but the public needs to be made aware of the noisiest bars so they can perform the oversight that city and state agencies often fail to do."

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