

Message from Tracy Wilson of Ghostline about proposed live music on the patio,
as presented at the February 11 ANC3B meeting:

I would like to just share the context of the proposed music program at Ghostline. My husband and I have lived in the DC area for over 20 years. We have 2 children and were really so excited to extend our community to the Glover Park neighborhood with the opening of Ghostline.

My husband is a professional jazz musician. He teaches in the music department at GWU, has had his own jazz orchestra for 23 years, composes and arranges for other music professionals, is the trumpeter with The Blackbyrds, is involved with the Blues Alley Youth Orchestra, and has toured all over the world performing.

Over the past year, we have lamented the closing of Twins Jazz after 35 years of operating; 18th Street Lounge after 25 years; and most recently Alice's Jazz and Cultural Society in the Brookland neighborhood. In the hometown of Duke Ellington, these were 3 of the few remaining institutions within the city limits that supported the American-born art form of jazz.

Our desire to host live jazz at Ghostline does not stem from a desire to create a lively destination for a drinking crowd or encourage or permit unsavory behavior that may be associated with other late night music programs. We are desirous of preserving and perpetuating the art form to which my husband has dedicated his life as a performer and educator. We are also looking to create a student program that would give aspiring young musicians a live performance opportunity, supported by their families.

We did host a pilot program on Saturday, Sep 19th to model the type of program we were proposing. We had two 75 min sets at 7p and 9p. In reviewing the demographic information, over 70% of guests lived in 20007. All tickets were pre-purchased, COVID-protocols were strictly adhered to, and all guests were off site by 11:30p. We took careful steps to ensure the sound level was no higher than the music we normally stream during dinner service. This is the type of supper club environment we're looking to create. [Note: live music performances will not be allowed to resume until the District's COVID emergency restrictions are ended.]

To address specific concerns:

- 1) *None of us are really happy with the idea of live music in our backyards until midnight or musicians loading out late at night in the alley behind our properties*
- We have all of our food vendors deliver through the front entrance of Ghostline to minimize disruption to our neighbors. This was something I committed to when we opened, and we can adhere to this policy with our featured musicians.
- While our ABRA license permits alcohol to be served until 3am on the weekends, we can ensure all live music will end by 12am on Friday and Saturday and 11pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. While we only have plans to offer music 1 day per week at the onset, we'd like the ability to add additional days in the future without having to continually amend our Agreement with the ANC.

- Our initial goal is to offer live music once per week. We would like to expand to 2 days thereafter, and add a possible 3rd day to accommodate a youth performance. Again, this is our plan at this time. Starting with one day per week will allow us to stay vigilant of the details that concern both the neighborhood and the flexibility to make program changes accordingly.
 - We will only offer Jazz; no other types of music
- 2) *How does Ghostline propose to follow DC Official Code § 25-725 Noise from Licensed Premises (cited in part below)?*
- (a) *The licensee under an on-premises retailer's license shall not produce any sound, noise, or music of such intensity that it may be heard in any premises other than the licensed establishment by the use of any:*
- (1) *Mechanical device, machine, apparatus, or instrument for amplification of the human voice or any sound or noise;*
 - (2) *Bell, horn, gong, whistle, drum, or other noise-making article, instrument, or device;*
 - (3) *Musical instrument*
- We have a licensed sound engineer on our team who helped to prepare us for the September pilot. Our focus was to ensure that the decibel level did not exceed that of our normal streamed music which does not extend beyond our perimeter. Afterward I communicated extensively with our immediate neighbors and do not believe they experienced any disturbance related to the performance.
 - While we are asking for permission to include musical instruments, we do not plan to have more than 5 musicians performing per night. The performance area that we are proposing is under the covered part of our outdoor bar and we have moveable baffling that we positioned around the perimeter to keep the sound contained within the patio.
 - With all of this said, our goal is to be respected and supported within the community. We are always open to feedback and committed to constantly improving our service and stewardship practices. I am accessible and can be reached anytime to address anyone's concerns as it relates to our impact on the neighborhood.

PROCESS GOING FORWARD

Please direct any further questions about Ghostline entertainment to Tracy at: tracy@gordonfoodgroup.com

The ANC will be working with Tracy on an amendment to the current Settlement Agreement (which describes enforceable restrictions on the use of the liquor license) that will remove the restriction against live music and define the hours, days and any other mutually agreeable limitations on the availability of live music on Ghostline's patio.

The residents of the condominium building behind Ghostline are supportive of the plan described above. The ANC will share with them and with the Sheffield, as well as any other members of the community, the proposed new agreement prior to voting on it at the March 11 meeting. ANC contact: jackieblumenthal@gmail.com.