Subject: FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino open

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:49 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino open

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Page 1079

Subject: FW: Club closure

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:30 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Club closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

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Subject: FW: Renew Licence for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:27 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Renew Licence for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Subject:

FW: Please don't close strip club

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:11 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Please don't close strip club

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 16:26 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

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Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield License

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 16:00 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield License

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

I am an anthropologist with close to two decades of research into sex work, prostitution and human trafficking. I am a member of my country's anti-trafficking council and also of my state anti-trafficking council. Sex work is not the same thing as trafficking and in almost 20 years of research into this, I have seen no compelling evidence that legalized sex work somehow contributes to trafficking. In fact, the one thing every trafficker PRAYS for is the criminalization of spaces like Spearmint Rhino, as that means that the illegal and hazardous venues they run will be the only outlet for sex workers left.

One should note that the prohibitionist politics of the War on Drugs have done NOTHING to eliminate or mitigate drug use. In fact, there is very good reason to believe that these politics have just increased illegal profits, police corruption, and violence. Decriminalization policies throughout Europe and the Americas show that prohibitionism does not work when it comes to reducing the personal and social damages of drug use.

Why in heaven's name would Sheffield council think that similar prohibitionist politics will have a positive effect when it comes to sex work?

Subject: FW: Women own their bodies

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:37 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Women own their bodies

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Subject:FW: Letter of SupportAttachments:Letter of Support.docx

----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I hope this email finds you well. Please find my letter of support attached.

Kind Regards

Letter of Support

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show my support to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and Leicester and the strip club industry in general.

I currently work at a Spearmint Rhino club and have done so for the past year and a half. Before coming to SR I worked in 6 other clubs throughout the 4 years that I have been dancing for. I look forward to going to work and feel a 100% safe and looked after whenever I'm at the venue or when going to or leaving my work place. I know I can rely on management and know where to turn for advice or if I have any issues or problems. This wasn't always the case with other jobs I had, before becoming a dancer.

In the past four years I built many great friendships, not just with fellow dancers but with other members of staff too, and met some wonderful people thanks to my job. The thought that people who I deeply care about and myself are in risk of losing our jobs, due to the activities of a so called feminist group deeply saddens me.

The service we provide is completely harmless and innocent, helps people relax and unwind after a long day, and is a great way to celebrate and have a good time. I am an entertainer and do not engage in prostitution or offer "extras" and never have. I am not forced to do what I do and my earnings do not get taken off me by an abuser, a "pimp" or a trafficker. I take pride in my work and see potential in it, just like all the other girls who CHOOSE (because we are not forced!) to become a dancer.

Being a dancer helped me tackle anxiety, gave me confidence, independence, free time and financial stability. Like in any other line of work we rely on our income. You must take it into consideration how closing down platforms for adult entertainment, such as SR, will affect the thousands of people's lives who work in the industry. This is not limited to dancers only but bar staff, DJs, door staff and management too. Many of us have families with children or other family members financially relying on us. Clubs closing down and putting people out of work will have a serious negative effect on our and our families' lives.

I would like to ask you that before you make any decisions please consider the above mentioned points. It is my body, therefore it is my choice and right to work as a dancer.

However, if you do still fear that we are in danger I urge and encourage you to get in touch with real strippers (I would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the topic), who have first-hand experience of what this lifestyle is really like. This will help you destroy stereotypes and will hopefully help you see our industry in a different light.

I would also like to voice my strong disapproval of the recording of dancers, without their knowing or their consent. I find this kind of behaviour malicious and out of order.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope it will help you make the right decisions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Subject: FW: Do not close Spearmint Rhino.

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:32 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Do not close Spearmint Rhino.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:12 **To:** licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Subject:

FW: Please do not close spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:05 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Please do not close spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 15:50 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 16:39 To: licensingservice Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I think it's time that people stopped and had a think, Spearmint Rhino aren't mistreating their staff they are well looked after and the girls working their are just like you and me working to earn a wage. They're not forced to commit lewd sex acts and maybe just maybe if yourselves and the people constantly taking offence and complaining put as much effort into locating the seedy pop up brothels then you'd be doing a far better job actually protecting people what need your help

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:35 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint rhino

To whom this may concern,

I writing this email in support of spearmint rhino as I really don't understand the issue here or why your even accepting it.

We have stirp/poledance clubs all across the country there's nothing wrong with it and as long as they're working with in respective guidelines and laws I'm sure there should be no problem.... It's not like its pushed in your face they aren't dancing in huge open windows for all to see it's not like you can't avoid it if you don't want to see it. It's becoming more and more popular and is an art I have done pole fit classes an can assure you it's very hard those girls work hard at something they love doing. We are always pushing people to work but here this will put nearly 20 people out of work and for what because somebody had nothing better to do than pick on something they didn't like it's 2019... We have worse places running in Attercliffe!

Kind Regards

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:20 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:21 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

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Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:25 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

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Sent: 23 May 2019 18:24 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint rhino

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Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:26 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

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