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City considers slashing fees for coffee shop music

Your favorite coffee shop may get cozier this winter. A proposal sponsored by Council Member Gary Schiff would cut fees for coffee shops that feature acoustic music. The change would eliminate the need for an entertainment license, saving the small businesses \$410 dollars annually.



The Coffee Unplugged ordinance will make it easier for coffee shops to welcome musicians.

"It's small change compared to the cost of running a business, but coffee isn't big bucks," Schiff said. "Anything we can do to encourage the arts and help small businesses at the same time is a good idea. We need more opportunities for musicians in the city."

"Live music helps coffee shops attract customers during cold weather," Maggie Turner, owner of [Tillie's Bean](#) said. "We don't charge a cover for our live music so we can't afford the fee. Without live music no one comes in during the evening, which causes us to limit our evening hours."

Under state law, license fees are supposed to cover the cost of regulating businesses. Schiff argues that limited entertainment doesn't need regulation. "The city should still regulate dance clubs that open in neighborhoods and the sound levels of amplified music," Schiff said in a [Star Tribune article by Chris Riemenschneider](#), "but I don't think the city needs to worry about acoustic musicians in coffee shops."

The Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee of the City Council will hold a hearing on the Coffee Unplugged ordinance at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28 in City Hall, room 317.

Juvenile offender focus credited for fewer homicides



Homicides have fallen 19% overall in Minneapolis in the past year, driven by a 38%

drop in south Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan says that going after the city's youngest offenders has helped turn around the city's crime rate. Last year, violent crime and murder increased, and an analysis of offenders showed that over fifty percent of those

committing crimes were juveniles. In a [CBS News story](#), Sgt. Stenerson of the Minneapolis Police Department says that the fine line between being a police officer and a social worker is one he is willing to walk. "Save a kid now or sacrifice another life later," Stenerson said.

Minneapolis is being looked to as a national model as a result of this approach. Police officers are working hard to track troubled kids before they become violent criminals. Last year, homicides in Minneapolis rose more than 20 percent, but this year, they're down almost 20 percent. In the Third Precinct alone, [homicides are down 38 percent](#). "Investments in cameras, the Shot Spotter system and new juvenile diversion efforts with Hennepin County all share credit with reversing these trends," Karen Notsch, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Third Precinct said.

Schiff opposes public funding for Republican Convention

Council Member Schiff will offer an amendment to the 2008 budget request of Mayor R.T. Rybak, cutting a proposed \$200,000 use of city sales tax for Republican National Convention activities. "Political conventions should be funded with private, not public dollars," Schiff said.

The request calls for a one-time increase to the Convention Center's budget to fund "Republican National Convention coordination on the Presidential/delegate experience" according to a city report. The money would come from the Convention Center's reserve account, which is funded by a city-wide sales tax, as well as hotel, restaurant and entertainment taxes. A statement from the Mayor's office said funds would be used for "a yet-to-be-named 'community festival' at the Minneapolis Convention Center that will be open to local residents to discuss politics, learn more about the issues of the day, meet new people, and be a part of this exciting moment in history."

Schiff said he would prefer to allocate sales tax dollars to other eligible expenses, including debt payments on the Convention Center. The first budget vote will take place Monday, November 26th.

Volunteers needed to shovel snow for seniors

With winter just around the corner, [HandyWorks](#) is recruiting both paid and volunteer workers to shovel snow for seniors living in South, Southeast and Northeast Minneapolis. HandyWorks, a program of the [Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches](#), helps seniors keep up their homes by matching them with others who can help with housekeeping, minor home repairs and outdoor chores such as snow removal, lawn mowing, laundry and housecleaning.

Each year, volunteers provide 6,000 chore service hours, completing over 1,600 chores. But the population of seniors who need help is increasing faster than paid or volunteer workers can be found. Paid snow removal workers earn \$15/hour and must have their own reliable transportation. In addition to a call for volunteers, HandyWorks is looking for donated snow blowers in good working condition. For more information, contact [Megan Nolan-Elliasen](#) or call her at 612-721-8687 ext. 329.



Snowstorms can make it difficult for seniors to leave their homes.

Tillie's Bean hosts fundraiser, hopes to reopen



Tillie's Bean closed in October and hopes to reopen.

In a show of support for struggling coffee shop [Tillie's Bean](#), performers and artists are hosting a fundraiser on Saturday, November 17. Tillie's Bean closed its doors earlier this month after unexpected costs.

The event, to be held at Tillie's Bean (on the corner of 38th Street East & 28th Avenue South), will feature a day of music that will include a silent auction of donated artworks and other collectible items. The event is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The silent auction closes at 6:00 p.m. There will also be many "buy it now" options as well as a cake walk and other fun activities. Musicians

who are interested in playing should contact donf@mac.com. Artists or individuals interested in donating should contact maggie@tilliesbean.com.

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