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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Paradise Rock Club and Lounge seeks capacity increase from city

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 8, 2010 03:09 PM

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(David L. Ryan/Globe Staff)

As part of this past summer's renovations, the stage at the Paradise Rock Club was moved 15 feet to give fans an unobstructed view of performers. Patrons have long complained about a pole that blocked the view.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

After undergoing major renovations over the summer, Paradise Rock Club and Lounge in Allston is seeking city approval to increase its total capacity to 999.

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The facility's capacity is currently 916, which includes 850 in the main club area and 66 in the front lounge area. The venue's capacity had been 916 prior to its recent makeover, but then the club section's capacity was 728. The club space's capacity grew by 17 percent, while the lounge area's capacity shrunk, when the venue

reconfigured its layout by making the club space larger and the lounge area smaller.

"We're hoping to increase our capacity, but it's a process. It's not a slam dunk and there's no guarantee," said Paradise co-owner Declan Mehigan referring

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to the venue's hearing next week seeking the city's approval of the capacity hike. "We'll take whatever the city will give us."

Paradise's ownership group, which has strong ties with the Live Nation-owned House of Blues chain and other area venues booked by [Live Nation](#), recently purchased another live music club when that [space ceased operation](#) as Harpers Ferry because of a reported dispute between Harpers' owners and the Allston property's landlord.

That 340-capacity space will [re-open in January](#) as Brighton Music Hall, which will serve as a "development room" for the Paradise, which is often a stepping stone for bands looking to schedule gigs at the 2,425-capacity [House of Blues Boston in Fenway](#), which in early 2009 took over the space occupied by two former clubs – Avalon and Axis that closed in 2007.

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