

Stephen Baird
P.O. Box 570
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January 18, 1982
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The Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Councilors:

I am disappointed that I and other street performance permit holders were not notified in writing about the increase in the permit fee as stated in section 9 of the Regulation of Street Performances.

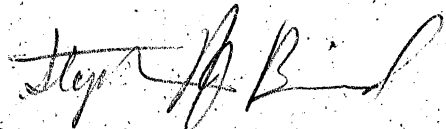
When the regulation of street performances was adopted, there was considerable testimony concerning the desirability of street performances, as well as discussion of merchants' opinions. Judge Rya Zobel of the US Federal District Court of Massachusetts stated in *Goldstein v Nantucket* 477 F. Supp. 606 (1979), that such considerations were unconstitutional and that street performances are a First Amendment protected activity.

The Bill of Rights should not be contingent on a person's ability to pay for a permit. A five-dollar fee may not sound like a lot for a year, but a traveling performer who is required to pay five dollars for each town she or he visits would end up paying a prohibitive amount in fees. (\$1,825.00 for 365 days).

Thus, I hope the City Council will return the fee to two dollars a year. Or, I hope the Council will establish a sliding scale of one dollar a week, two dollars a month, and five dollars a year.

In the future, I hope the City Councilors will abide by section 9 of the Regulation of Street Performances and inform me and all other permit holders of potential amendments in writing. Most importantly, I hope the Council will remain aware that street performing is a First Amendment right.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Baird

3. S-49

Comm. from Stephen H. Baird relative to an
increase in street performance permit fees.

In City Council,

January 25, 1982

1/25/82

Referred to the

City Manager

Copy sent to the City Manager
1/26/82
mlh