



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., 1ST FLOOR, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 349-6140

BENJAMIN C. BARNES
Chairman

CHIEF KEVIN J. FITZGERALD
Fire Department
Commission Member

CAPTAIN HENRY W. BREEN
Police Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI
Commission Executive Officer

Date: June 20, 1996

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Fr: Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer

Re: Council Order #035, Feasibility of Reducing City Permit and Licensing Fees for Veteran's Organizations and Financial Impact of These Reductions

Council Order #036, Feasibility of Reducing permit and License Fees for Non-Profit Charitable and Civic Organizations and Financial Impact of These Reductions

In response to the above council orders, I offer you the following information.

Currently, Veteran's organizations pay \$1945.00 per year for a 7 day, 2:00 a.m. all alcoholic license. I enclose a comparison of this fee to other alcohol fees. The Veteran's clubs do enjoy a fee much less than other categories except for clubs with reduced days. Some clubs are open less than 7 days and can apply to have their license reduced and pay a lesser fee per year.

As for entertainment fees, veteran's/private clubs may apply for annual entertainment licenses with varying costs depending on the categories they wish. Most want to apply for one day entertainment licenses which are \$40.00 per day or event. Clubs generally have dances or functions on Saturday nights and thus it is not economically wise to pay for a full annual license. I enclose a comparison on one day fees which amounts to 6.7% of our income for one day licenses from veteran's clubs. It should be noted that these clubs may only have functions for members or events which are sponsored by members. Most clubs try to supplement their income by renting out their rooms. But this can not be for events that are not sponsored by a club member. This is state law. Also it is the person renting the hall or club that pays the \$40.00 fee. This should be applied for by that person at our office.

As for charitable, non-profitable organizations, we have made no distinction on fees from other organizations. The majority of our one day liquor/entertainment licenses come from the universities, (MIT, Harvard etc.) all of which usually have non-profit student events. If we made a change in these fees we would virtually wipe

out any income in this category. The city would lose approximately \$185,082 annually for one day entertainment licenses. All clubs and non-profit organizations also enjoy tax breaks because of their status. They are not in the same category as a nightclub trying to make a profit.

It should be noted, that an investigator from our office must check each one day event to make sure that all is running legally and without incident. On an average, an investigator may have 8 to 10 events to check each weekend, along with his or her other duties. This requires that the investigator go into the event, check for the proper licenses, talk with the person in charge, check id's if needed, and quell any disturbances if any. This is time consuming and expensive for our office. It also requires a staff clerk to issue the original license, which can take a clerk between 15 to 20 minutes for each permit, after checking the paperwork, id's and sign-offs.

In any event, we feel that our fees are fair and reflect that amount of work we put into each permit issued. Therefore, a review is not needed at this time of the fees in these categories.

Should you need further information, please let me know.



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TO: Benjamin C. Barnes, Chairman
Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer

FROM: Ellen Fitzgerald Watson, Information Systems Specialist

RE: Comparison of License Commission Annual Alcohol Fees

DATE: June 7, 1996

Ellen Fitzgerald Watson

Pursuant to your request, below please find a comparison of the annual alcohol fees for all categories of licenses versus those for Veteran's Clubs.

Annual Fee Schedule:

All Alcoholic Veteran's Club (7 days, 2 a.m.)	\$1,945.00
VFW = 61.55% of All Alcoholic Restaurant, 7 days, 1 am	3,160.00
VFW = 49.8% of All Alcoholic Restaurant, 7 days, 2 am	3,905.00
VFW = 55.1% of All Alcoholic Restaurant, 7 days, 1:30 am	3,530.00
VFW = 97% of Wine/Malt Restaurant, 7 days	2,000.00
VFW = 119% of Wine/Malt Restaurant, 6 days	1,632.00
VFW = 159% of Malt Restaurant, 7 days	1,225.00
VFW = 72% of other Private All Alcoholic Clubs	2,700.00
VFW = 240% of All Alcoholic, 2 am, 3 day Club	810.00
VFW = 95% of Wine and Malt Educational Institution	2,040.00

Should you need additional information, please advise.



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RICHARD V. SCALI
Commission Executive Officer

TO: Benjamin C. Barnes, Chairman
Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer ✓

FROM: Ellen Fitzgerald Watson, Information Systems Specialist

RE: One Day Entertainment Licenses

DATE: June 6, 1996

In response to your request for information on the number of one day entertainment licenses issued to our private clubs, please be advised that during the current fiscal year, 28 of the 422 (6.7%) one day entertainment licenses were issued to this category of licensees. This accounts for less than \$1,000 of the \$185,082 (.0054%) in entertainment licensing revenue collected thus far this fiscal year.

Should you need additional information, please advise.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

July 29, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item Nos. 12 & 13, regarding the feasibility of reducing permit and licensing fees for Veterans organizations and for non-profit charitable and civic organizations and the financial impact of these reduction, received from Richard Scali, Executive Director of the License Commission.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #9

S-433

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers
Twelve and Thirteen, regarding the
feasibility of reducing permit and
licensing fees for Veterans org-
anizations and for non-profit
charitable and civic organizations
and the financial impact of
these reductions.

In City Council July 29, 1996

*Charter right was
exercised by
Councillor Toomey
9-9-96*

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