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February 25, 1999

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council,

Protect the Zeitgeist Art Gallery and Community Entertainment Groups

The City Council should protect the Zeitgeist Gallery relating to the Licensing Board.

The Zeitgeist Gallery has regularly participated in the life of the community, providing many free community services and arts programs.

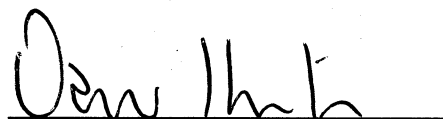
As Community Arts are regularly money-losers for community groups, the Zeitgeist has occasionally asked donations. Even when donations are requested, many in the community attend for free.

Now, after 4 ½ years, there is pressure on the Zeitgeist gallery through the Licensing commission to pay commercial licenses and fees normally imposed on commercial entertainment establishments. This commercial entertainment license is inapplicable to community groups like the Zeitgeist, and the fees are prohibitive.

If the Zeitgeist is considered commercial entertainment, then all churches and community groups which request donations to defray costs, would require commercial entertainment licenses. This would unreasonably restrict free speech and community spirit for a respected community group. Further, the arts would suffer in Cambridge, as few artists have money, and "starving artists" is a phrase which has become part of the lexicon.

Therefore, I request that the City Council encourage the Licensing Board to have the community-spirited Zeitgeist and other community entertainment groups remain on a for-donations basis, without commercial entertainment license and fees.

Yours truly,



David Hoicka

cc. Cambridge Licensing Commission

Consent Communication #213-1508

A communication was received from David Hoicka, regarding protecting the Zeitgeist Art Gallery and Community Entertainment Groups.

In City Council March 1, 1999

Placed on file