

# Ordinance No. 44785

An ordinance relating to and regulating "public dancing" and "public dance halls," providing for the issuance of licenses and permits therefor, defining offenses, providing penalties and repealing ordinances in conflict.

NO 480 22

(ENGROSSED BILL)

21  
44-081

# Council Bill No. 34271

INTRODUCED: JAN 2 1923	BY: LANDES
REFERRED: JAN 2 1923	TO: COUNCIL
REFERRED:	
REPORTED: FEB 19 1923	VETO:
SECOND READING: FEB 19 1923	PUBLISHED:
THIRD READING: FEB 19 1923	VETO SUSTAINED:
SIGNED:	PASSED OVER VETO:
PRESENTED TO MAYOR: FEB 19 1923	APPROVED:
FILED: MAR 2 1923	PUBLISHED: MAR 7 1923
ENGROSSED:	BY: <i>[Signature]</i>
VOL. 21 PAGE 372	
COMPARED BY:	

AND

REPRODUCED FROM BEST  
AVAILABLE DOCUMENT.

96316-appeal

ORDINANCE No. ~~44285~~ NO 48022

AN ORDINANCE relating to and regulating "public dancing" and "public dance halls," providing for the issuance of licenses and permits therefor, defining offenses, providing penalties and repealing Ordinance No. 33109 and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This entire ordinance shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the State of Washington and of The City of Seattle for the protection of the public economic and social welfare, health, peace and morals, and all of its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of that purpose.

Section 2. The word "person," wherever used in this ordinance, shall be held and construed to mean and include natural persons of either sex, firms co-partnerships and corporations, whether acting by themselves or by servant, agent or employee. The singular number shall include the plural and the masculine gender shall include the feminine.

Section 3. The term "public dance" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean any dance to which the public is admitted and which is held or conducted for profit, direct or indirect, and the term "public dance hall" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean any place where public dancing as herein defined is permitted.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful to open up, conduct, manage, operate or maintain a "public dance hall" without a valid and subsisting license obtained in the manner herein provided.

Section 5. Any person desiring to procure a "public dance hall" license shall make application therefor to the City Council, upon a form furnished by the City Comptroller, which shall be substantially as follows:

THE CITY OF SEATTLE  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COMPTROLLER.

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC DANCE HALL LICENSE.

1. Name and address of applicant .....
2. State whether individual, partnership or corporation .....
3. If partnership, state names of all persons having an interest in the business .....
4. If a corporation, state the names of the officers .....
5. If an individual or partnership, state whether all persons sharing in the profits of the business are citizens of the United States.....
6. State names of any such persons who are not citizens of the United States .....
7. If a corporation, give the names of each stockholder, together with the number of shares of capital stock held by each .....
8. If a corporation, state whether all stockholders are citizens of the United States .....
9. Give the names of any stockholders who are not such citizens ....
10. How long has applicant (or if a corporation, its officers) resided in the City of Seattle .....
11. State whether the applicant or manager has ever been engaged in operating a dance hall and when, where and how long in each place within the five years then last past .....
12. Proposed location of public dance hall .....
13. Has the applicant, or anyone owning an interest in the proposed public dance hall been convicted within one (1) year preceding the date of this application of violating any ordinance or law relative to intoxicating liquor or possession or sale of narcotics.....
14. Have any of said persons ever been convicted of violating any ordinance or law relating to public morality and decency .....
15. Do the premises upon which the proposed dance hall is to be conducted comply with the requirements of the Building Code and those relating to health and sanitation .....
16. The name of the owner of the premises in which said dance hall is to be located and the complete address of owner .....

STATE OF WASHINGTON }  
COUNTY OF KING } SS.

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says: I am the \_\_\_\_\_ above named applicant and make this affidavit for the purpose of obtaining from the City of Seattle a license to operate a dance hall as provided in Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in the foregoing application, and the statements therein contained are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State  
of Washington, residing at Seattle.

Said application shall be signed and duly verified by the applicant before an officer authorized to administer oaths.

Section 6. The License Committee of the City Council shall refer all applications for dance hall licenses to the "Supervisor of Dances", hereinafter provided for, who shall after full investigation of each application report his findings and shall make recommendations thereon to the City Council. The City Council may in its discretion, after consideration of said application and report thereon, direct the City Comptroller to issue the license applied for. No license shall be granted to any person who is not of good moral character or to any person who has previously been connected with a public dance hall where the license has been revoked, or where any of the provisions with reference to public dances have been violated, or if the dance hall sought to be licensed does not conform to the requirements of this ordinance and all ordinances and regulations of The City of Seattle relating to buildings, ventilation, fire exits and lighting, or unless such ~~dance~~ hall is properly equipped with separate and sufficient toilet conveniences for each sex, and is a safe and proper place for the purpose ~~in~~ for which it shall be used, nor unless each and every question submitted in said application is specifically answered by the applicant.

Section 7. The annual license fee for a public dance hall shall be as follows:

Public dance halls having a floor space of less than 2500 Square Feet, . . . . .	\$25.00
Public dance halls having a floor space of from 2500 Square Feet to 5000 Square Feet, . . . . .	\$35.00
Public dance halls having a floor space of from 5000 Square Feet to 6500 Square Feet, . . . . .	\$50.00
Public dance halls having a floor space exceeding 6500 Square Feet, . . . . .	\$75.00

Section 8. It shall be unlawful for any person to hold a public dance or to hold or conduct classes in dancing without first having obtained, in addition to the license heretofore required, a permit therefor from the Chief of Police. The application for such permit

shall be referred to the Supervisor of Dances, hereinafter provided for, for his recommendations and reports, and if the said Supervisor of Dances shall approve the same the Chief of Police may issue the permit after payment to the City Treasurer of the permit fee herein required. The request for such permit shall be made at least forty-eight (48) hours before the dance authorized thereunder is to be held; provided, however, that an annual permit may be issued for dances or classes held and conducted by regularly established instructors in dancing. The fee for such a permit shall be one (1) dollar for the giving or holding of a single dance, and fifteen (15) dollars for an annual permit. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as requiring the holder of a license or permit to procure any additional license or permit to conduct classes in dancing or hold dances if such classes or dances are held in the same location and under the same management as the public dance hall for which license and permit have already been granted.

Section 9. The Chief of Police shall cancel any permit issued under authority of this ordinance if he shall learn that the same was procured by fraud or false representation of fact, or that the permittee has failed to comply with the provisions and requirements of this ordinance or has violated any of the provisions hereof, or if he shall find, after investigation, that such public dance has a tendency to draw together lewd or dissolute persons, narcotic addicts, prostitutes or persons of vicious or immoral habits or tendencies, or is for any other reason detrimental to the public peace, health or welfare.

The City Council may revoke any permit or license for the failure of the permittee or licensee to comply with the provisions of this ordinance or for the violation of said ordinance by any servant, agent, or employe of said permittee or licensee, or for the conviction of the holder of such license or permit of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude, or for the conviction of any of his servants, agents or employes of any crime involving moral turpitude committed on the premises on which such public dance is conducted, or if, after investi-

gation, the Council shall find that such public dance has a tendency to draw together lewd or dissolute persons, narcotic addicts, prostitutes or persons of vicious or immoral habits or tendencies, or is for any other reason detrimental to the public peace, health or welfare.

Section 10. Any person may appeal to the City Council from any decision of the Chief of Police in refusing to issue a permit under the provisions of this ordinance or revoking a permit previously granted by him. The City Council is hereby authorized to review any action of the Chief of Police in regard thereto, and the action of the City Council shall be final. All appeals to the City Council shall be filed with the City Council at its next regular meeting following notice of the decision of the Chief of Police to the person affected thereby.

Section 11. A member of the Police Department shall be appointed by the Chief of Police as Supervisor of Dances. It shall be the duty of the Supervisor of Dances to examine all applications for public dance hall licenses or permits and to determine whether the applicant has complied with all the regulations, ordinances and laws applicable thereto, and to make an investigation as to the character and fitness of the applicant and as to the person or persons who shall have the general management or supervision of such dance hall. He shall file a written report of such investigations with the City Council with recommendations as to whether any license applied for shall be granted or refused. The Supervisor of Dances shall investigate all complaints of public dance halls and dances, and shall inspect at least once each month the public dance halls of the city and for that purpose shall have free access to all public dances and dance halls at all times. The Supervisor of Dances shall keep a complete card index of all applicants for dance hall licenses and permits with the dates of granting or rejection of the same with a complete record of all visitations and inspections thereto and thereof and of his recommendations and findings in relation thereto. He shall cause any person to be prosecuted for

violation of the provisions of this ordinance, and shall report all violations to the Chief of Police and to the City Council with his recommendations with respect to revocation of any license or permit.

Section 12. It shall be unlawful to conduct or permit any public dance to be given as herein provided unless a matron, satisfactory at all times to the Supervisor of Dances, shall be provided by the management; except that in cases of dances given by responsible fraternal or labor organizations, charitable or philanthropic agencies, schools, churches, bona fide community or patriotic societies or like organizations, chaperones may in the discretion of the Supervisor be substituted for matrons provided their names are submitted to the Supervisor of Dances forty-eight (48) hours before the dances. It shall be the duty of such matrons to report any violation of the laws pertaining to public dance halls and public dancing to the Supervisor of Dances and to keep a strict watch over the girls and patrons who ~~may~~ frequent and those who are employed in such public dance halls.

Section 13. Every person conducting a public dance hall shall have a floor manager in control of the premises continuously from one-half hour before dancing begins until the dance hall is closed. It shall be the duty of the floor manager to see that standards of decency and good taste are maintained, and that disorderly, familiar or objectionable conduct is not tolerated, and to take effective steps promptly to remove objectionable persons and stop objectionable practices, and to co-operate with the matron in carrying out the provisions of this ordinance, and in preserving order and good conduct on the part of the patrons and employes of said public dance.

Section 14. After sunset every public dance hall shall be lighted or illuminated in such a manner and to such an extent as is usual or customary for lighting halls or rooms of like dimensions in the night time for public assemblage, before any patrons are admitted thereto, or before any dance or dancing is commenced therein; provided, however, that the intensity of such lighting or illumination shall at no time be less than a one-foot candle at a plane of three (3) feet above the



floor of such hall at all parts thereof. Such lighting or illumination shall be maintained thereafter throughout the entire time for which such dance hall shall be open and entertaining patrons, and during any recess or other intermission without diminution and without interruption until such dance hall shall be cleared and closed. Shadow and moonlight dances are hereby prohibited and declared to be unlawful.

X Section 15. It shall be unlawful for any person to whom a dance hall license is issued, or for any person conducting a public dance hall or dancing class under license or permit from the city, to allow or permit in any public dance hall any indecent act to be committed, or any disorder or conduct of a gross, violent or vulgar character, or to permit in any such dance hall any prostitute, pimp or procurer. Any member of the police and the detective departments, or the Supervisor of Dances, shall have the power, and it shall be the duty of each of them, to cause any dance hall to be vacated whenever any provision of this ordinance, or of any ordinance, regulation or law concerning public dance halls, is being violated, or wherein any ordinance, regulation or law of any character shall be violated, or whenever any indecent act shall be committed, or when any disorder or conduct of a gross, violent or vulgar character shall take place therein.

Section 16. It shall be unlawful to permit any person who has not reached the ~~age~~ age of eighteen (18) years to attend or remain at any public dance unless such person be accompanied by the parent or legal guardian of such person. It shall be unlawful for any person to represent himself to have reached the age of eighteen (18) years in order to attend or remain at any public dance when such person in fact is under eighteen (18) years of age, and it shall be unlawful for any person to falsely represent himself to be a parent or legal guardian of any person in order that such person may ~~be~~ attend or remain at any public dance.

Section 17. It shall be unlawful for any person conducting a public dance hall, or any manager or other agent thereof,

(6) To issue pass checks or other checks permitting a person to leave and re-enter the dance hall;

(b) To permit on the dance hall premises any person having in his possession, or offering for sale, selling, giving away, or drinking any intoxicating liquors;

(c) To permit any person under the influence of liquor or drugs to participate in, or to remain, at any public dance;

(d) To permit narcotic peddlers, narcotic addicts, lewd or dissolute persons, prostitutes, idlers, loiterers, or other hangers-on to be on or about the dance hall premises.

Section 18. It shall be unlawful for any person to bring into, <sup>his</sup> or have in possession, or partake of any intoxicating liquors in any place designated in this ordinance as a public dance or a public dance hall.

Section 19. Any female employed in or about any dance hall shall remain in said hall at all times during the hours of her employment.

Section 20. Public Dance Halls, or public dances, which cater to men only, and in connection with which female dancing partners are furnished, are hereby prohibited.

Section 21. All public dances shall be discontinued and public dance halls closed on or before 12:30 A.M.

Section 22. Dancing may be permitted in hotels, restaurants and cafes subject to the following regulations; a special license to be known as a Cafe Dance License to be secured in the same manner as for a regular dance hall license; the fee for which shall be \$50.00 per year; closing hour, health and fire restrictions, conduct of patrons, lighting of room and all other general regulations as regards morality or decency in this ordinance shall be effective as far as dancing in hotels, restaurants and cafes is concerned.

Section 23. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or void, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 24. That Ordinance No. 33109 of the City of Seattle, entitled:

"An ordinance relating to and regulating the conduct and maintenance of dancing places and dancing in the City of Seattle, requiring the payment of a license fee and the securing of a permit, and providing penalties for violation,"

approved May 11, 1914, and all other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 25. Any person failing to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, or violating any of its provisions, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined in any sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned in the city jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(To be used for all Ordinances except Emergency.)

Section 16 This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days from and after its passage and approval, if approved by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect at the time it shall become a law under the provisions of the city charter.

Passed the City Council the 19 day of FEBRUARY 1923  
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 19 day of FEBRUARY 1923  
W.B. Fitzgerald  
President of the City Council.

The foregoing bill, after its passage and authentication, and within five days thereafter, was presented to the Mayor, who returned the same to the City Council without his disapproval or approval.

Witness my hand and seal of said city this 2 day of MARCH 1923.

[SEAL]

By W. Carroll  
City Comptroller and Ex-officio City Clerk.  
W. Carroll  
Deputy Clerk.  
Deputy Clerk.

Published MAR 7 1923

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City Comptroller and Ex-Officio City Clerk.  
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