

74 Symphony Road, Apt. 3
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
(617-536-4213)
Monday, April 23, 1973

The Honorable Kevin H. White
Mayor of the City of Boston
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I would like to continue the fight to earn my living by street singing. On Thursday, March 22, 1973, I sent a letter to your office complaining about Police Regulation 75 and the Parks and Recreation Regulation concerning street singing. The problem still exists.

I still wonder why religious organizations can solicit on the Boston Common and the individual cannot. Separation of Church and State means that the individual and the Church would be treated as equals under the laws. I play in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, schools, and other charitable organizations. Can my life be distinguished from that of a band member of the Salvation Army?

I also wonder how the police will enforce the laws when the Summerthing Troubador Program starts. Police Officer #1826 threatened to arrest me today on the Boston Common. I was invited to street sing by Ms. Lois Traub, Senatorial Aide, for Earth Day Activities. Police Officer #1826 could not distinguish me from other street singers. I wonder which is legal: the street singer who is paid by tax dollars or the street singer who is paid by the people who are listening?

The letter of March 22nd was referred to Police Sergeant Gottsechalk of District #1. He restated the position of the Police Department adequately but continued to interpret Police Regulation 75 in a conflicting manner. The sergeant who issued me my first Itinerant Musician's License in 1972 said that an unmarked can or box on the ground was not considered a special effort of solicitation. However, Police Sergeant Gottsechalk and Police Officer #1826 now say if a person hands me money it is a special request of solicitation. I was asked by a clerk when I received my application if street singing would be my primary source of income. I thought that it would be.

I have never considered street singing a form of begging as Police Regulation 75 and the Parks and Recreation Regulation suggest. I sing in the streets to educate, inform and entertain all people. Regardless of whether they can pay, I sing for all ages on unique instruments. I

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bring music to the people. It is hard work. The Summerthing Program reflects that attitude. Why should I stop?

New York City and other cities welcome street singers for they add to the city's spirit. The thousands of people in Boston I have sung for think so, too.

Police Regulation 75 and the Parks and Recreation Regulation do not reflect the feelings of the people or Summerthing. I ask you to revoke those laws.

I am consulting the Civil Liberties Union tomorrow. For anymore information, please inform me. I hope to receive an immediate reply. Enclosed are photocopies of the letter of March 22, 1973, permission to perform on the Boston Common on April 23, 1973, Summerthing Troubador Program, and a letter from the Commissioner of Bridgewater State Hospital Correctional Institution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish I were singing.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen H. Baird

Enclosures

cc: The Boston Globe