

**PUBLIC HEARING AND WORKING SESSION -
DECEMBER 9, 1991**

The public hearing and working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:36 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Ingrid B. Sheldon, Kirk D. Dodge, Robert C. Grady, Mark Ouimet, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 8.

ABSENT : Councilmembers Ann Marie Coleman, Nelson K. Meade, Kurt Zimmer, 3.

PUBLIC HEARING

LICENSING, ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION OF LIQUOR LICENSES

A public hearing was conducted on issues concerning licensing, enforcement and regulation of liquor licenses. Notice of public hearing was published December 8, 1991.

The following persons appeared:

David Cahill, 1418 Broadway St., speaking on behalf of State Representative Perry Bullard, stated that community-based programs are urgently needed to ensure that no further episodes of violence occur.

Ken Zabel, 1421 Natalie Ln., stated that he and a friend were seriously injured when his parked car was hit by a drunk driver. Mr. Zabel expressed concern with the lack of local programs to prevent drunk driving, and requested that Council support a program being established by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers in which judges would sentence offenders to a "victim impact panel" to learn of victims' accounts.

There being no one else to speak, the Chair declared the hearing recessed until the end of the agenda.

WORKING SESSION

JOINT SESSION WITH THE MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Mayor Brater introduced Michigan Liquor Control Commission staff members James Marohnic, a supervisor in the Enforcement Division, and Randy Martin, Deputy Director of Enforcement. The Mayor stated that this session was requested by City Council resolution to address concerns about alcohol abuse and the resulting issues related to enforcement and regulations of liquor licenses.

The MLCC representatives distributed copies of "A Guide to the Rights and Responsibilities of Local Governments Under the Liquor Control Act" (on file in the City Clerk's Office), and answered questions from Councilmembers concerning licensing and enforcement of liquor laws.

The Mayor suggested that a network be established with other university communities in Michigan to learn about their problems concerning alcohol abuse and how they address such problems. Ms. Brater reported that Michigan Municipal League Director George Goodman has been contacted about creating a university community task force within the League to accomplish this goal.

The Mayor further suggested that guidelines be established for the decision making process and investigations of new liquor license and annual renewals.

The Chair declared the public hearing continued and the meeting opened for public comment. The following persons appeared:

Roy Goffett, owner of the Blind Pig bar, stated that most bar owners in Ann Arbor run reasonable establishments and that some consideration should be given for the difficulties faced by bar owners. Mr. Goffett requested that any further regulations established by the City be done within reasonable bounds.

Matthew Commers, 619 E. University Ave., Inter Fraternity Council President, stated that his organization has been making an effort to take responsibility for its actions by limiting alcohol at its functions, and has been working with the City to be more effective in maintaining a good relationship with the community. Mr. Commers inquired whether MLCC enforcement applies to functions sponsored by his organization.

Mr. Martin responded that the MLCC does not have the authority to police unlicensed establishments.

There being no one else to speak the Chair declared the hearing closed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilmember Hunter that the meeting be adjourned.

On a voice vote the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary