

## COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

**ITEM:** An Ordinance Creating a Comedy Club Liquor License  
**DATE:** March 4, 2002  
**PREPARED BY:** Carol Conforti, Liaison to the Liquor Commission  
**PURPOSE:** To adopt an ordinance creating a new liquor license classification

### DISCUSSION:

If you will recall, at the workshop meeting of February 26, 2002, the Village Council discussed the creation of a non-restaurant facility liquor license. This ordinance was drafted in response to a request from a potential business owner who is looking to open a comedy club in the Village and serve liquor in conjunction therewith. After some discussion, the Council requested that the ordinance be clarified as to what activities could take place on the premises and have additional limitations placed on liquor service.

Attached find a re-draft which will “tighten up” the comedy club license classification guidelines. The Legal Department has drafted specific language pertaining to comedy club activities and specifically defines Comedy Clubs. Performances are to be conducted by professional comedians with an exception for limited amateur performances. At the end of each performance set, patrons will be required to exit before a next group of patrons are admitted. In addition, liquor service has been further limited to one hour prior and during regularly scheduled performances.

### ATTACHMENT:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMEDY CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the Village Council reconsider this matter at their Workshop meeting of March 12, 2002 and place this matter on the Active Agenda for approval on March 19, 2002.

cc: Downers Grove Liquor Commission  
Legal Department  
Steve Rockwell, Dir. of Economic Development  
Annivar Salgado, Mainly Comedy

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ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMEDY CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by shading; deletions by ~~strikeout~~.)

SECTION 1. That Section 3-3 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

**3-3. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

(a) *Act.* The Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934, as now or hereafter amended.

(b) *Alcoholic liquor.* Any spirits, wine, beer, ale or other liquid containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume, which is fit for beverage purposes. Beverages sold as beer, ale or other designation commonly applied to malt beverages containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume shall be presumed to be alcoholic liquor for purposes of this Chapter.

(c) *Catering Business.* A business which provides and serves alcoholic liquor at locations not owned or leased by the catering business for consumption at such location.

(d) *Catered event.* A dinner, banquet, party or other similar event at which alcoholic liquor is provided for consumption on the premises by a Catering Business.

(e) *Club.* A corporation organized under the laws of this state, not for pecuniary profit, solely for the promotion of some common object other than the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquors, kept, used and maintained by its members through the payment of annual dues, and owning, hiring or leasing a building or space in a building, of such extent and character as may be suitable and adequate for the reasonable comfortable use and accommodation of its members and their bona fide guests and provided with suitable and adequate kitchen and dining room space and equipment and maintaining a sufficient number of employees for cooking, preparing and serving food and meals for its members and their bona fide guests. Provided, the sale or offer of alcoholic liquor for sale to the public by the club, except as provided in Section 3-32 of this Chapter is not permitted, and further provided, that the affairs and management of the club shall be conducted by a board of directors, executive committee or similar body chosen by the members at their annual meeting, and that no member or any officer, agent or employee of the club shall be paid, or directly or indirectly receives, in the form of salary or other compensation, any profits from the distribution or sale of alcoholic liquor to the club or the members of the club or its guests introduced by members beyond the amount of such salary as may be fixed and voted at any annual meeting by the members or by its board of directors or other governing body out of the general revenue of the club. The term club shall not include any "men's or women's club" as defined herein.

(f) *Comedy Club.* A non-restaurant business with live performances by comedians during one or more performances conducted at set times per day. The performances shall consist of one or more comedians and shall be not less than 1.5 hours in length with patrons paying a separate admission charge for each performance. At the end of each performance, patrons shall be required to exit before the next group of patrons admitted. Provided, performances shall be done by professional comedians except that amateur performances (open mike) shall be permitted not more than one night week.

(fg) *Contracted theater rental.* A prearranged function in which an entity enters into a rental agreement or contract for the use of a theater for events, private film viewing/critique and/or theatrical, musical or live performances.

(gh) *Fashion show.* The modeling, showing or other presentation of lingerie or other garments for the purpose of entertaining or for sale of the garment, where the person so modeling the garment appears in a nude or semi-nude state.

(hi) *Hotel.* A building or group of buildings used in conjunction with one another as a lodging facility providing sleeping accommodations for compensation to travelers and guests, whether transient, permanent or residential and in which one hundred or more rooms are provided for such purpose.

(ij) *Liquor product identification sign.* Any sign, including any placard, banner, poster, streamer, balloon or other attention getting device, which is designed or used to advertise, promote or identify a particular brand of liquor. This includes, but is not limited to, those signs commonly referred to as "beer signs" and may involve electronic or neon displays.

(jk) *Men's or women's club.* An establishment which offers entertainment where any person may appear in a nude or semi-nude state, or offers the customer a role playing interaction, including but not limited to servers, hosts, hostesses, dancers, singers, models or other performance artists, or an establishment which offers customers role playing interaction.

(kl) *Nude or nudity or a state of nudity.* The appearance of a human bare buttock, anus, male genitals, female genitals, or female breast; or, a state of dress which fails to opaquely cover a human buttock, anus, male genitals, female genitals, or areola of the female breast.

(lm) *Semi-nude.* A state of dress in which clothing covers no more than the genitals, pubic region, and areolae of the female breast, as well as portions of the body covered by supporting straps or devices.

(mn) *Original package.* Any bottle, flask, jug, can, barrel, keg, or other receptacle or container whatsoever, used, corked or capped, sealed and labeled by the manufacturer of alcoholic liquor, to contain and to convey any alcoholic liquor.

(no) *Private function.* A prearranged private party, function, or event for a specific social or business occasion, either by invitation or reservation and not open to the general public, where the guests in attendance are served in a an area designated and used exclusively for the private party, function or event.

(op) *Regularly scheduled motion pictures or films.* Motion pictures or films scheduled to be shown at previously arranged and advertised times and open to the general public. Regularly scheduled motion pictures or films shall not include any motion pictures or films shown as a result of a contracted theater rental, as defined in this section.

(pq) *Recreational facility.* A building or area in which the primary business is to provide, by membership or user fee or both, a place in which the public may participate in a sport or engage in physical fitness activities, including but not limited to volleyball, tennis, racquetball or handball clubs; bowling alleys; and health clubs. Provided, such facilities shall include an area in which service of food prepared on premises is provided, including hot or cold sandwiches or other similar foods.

(qr) *Restaurant.* Any public place kept, used, maintained, advertised or held out to the public as a place where the primary business is the service of meals, and where meals are actually and regularly served, without sleeping accommodations, and where adequate provision is made for sanitary kitchen and dining room equipment and capacity and a sufficient number of employees to prepare, cook and serve a reasonable variety of meals for its customers. The mere availability and service at any premises of cold sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres or other similar foods will not, standing alone, be deemed sufficient to constitute such premises a restaurant within the meaning of this paragraph, it being the intent of this paragraph that the primary business conducted on premises to be licensed as restaurants hereunder shall be the service of meals.

(rs) *Retail sale.* The sale for use or consumption, and not for resale.

(st) *Role playing interaction.* An arrangement, service or program where a server, host, hostess, dancer, singer, model or other performance artist, engages a customer in a meeting or conversation involving,

depicting, participating in, or relating to any "specified sexual activities" as defined and set forth in Section 8-79(g).

(tu) *Sale.* Any transfer, exchange or barter, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, for a consideration and not for resale, including all sales made by any person whether as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee, and including, but not limited to, all of the following acts when done for consideration:

- (1) The selling of liquor.
- (2) The delivery of liquor, without additional charge, with a meal or with entertainment or the providing of samples of liquor as part of a promotion or sales device of any kind.
- (3) The dispensing of liquor.
- (4) The providing of mix, ice, water or glasses for the purposes of mixing drinks containing alcoholic liquor for consumption on the same premises.
- (5) The pouring of liquor.
- (6) The providing of "set-ups" containing alcoholic liquor.

"Sale" shall not include:

- (1) a person acting in the privacy of his home
- (2) where liquor is provided as part of a religious ceremony; and
- (3) to private functions as defined herein that are held by the host and where the guests are not charged for the liquor consumed.

(tv) *Service Bar.* The sale of liquor at a restaurant for consumption on the licensed premises in conjunction with the service of food, to customers seated at tables. A service bar shall not include, and shall specifically exclude, any counter, bar, lounge, waiting area or similar arrangement where liquor is sold to, or consumed by, customers who are not seated at a dining table.

(vw) *Theater.* A facility within the Central Business District as that term is defined in the Downers Grove Zoning Ordinance, regularly used for showing motion pictures/films or conducting theatrical, musical or live performances or events with a seating capacity of 900 or more persons. (Ord. No. 244, § 1; Ord. No. 1741, § 1; Ord. No. 1749, § 1; Ord. No. 2388, § 1; Ord. No. 2450, § 1; Ord. No. 2541, § 1; Ord. No. 2735, § 1; Ord. No. 2847, § 1; Ord. No. 3164, § 1.)

NOTE: For state law as to definitions, see Ill. Comp. Stat., Ch. 235, § 5/1-3 et seq.

SECTION. That Section 3-13 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

### **3-13. Classification of licenses.**

Such licenses shall be, and are hereby, divided into the following classes:

(a) Class "A" package liquor licenses, which shall authorize the retail sale on the premises specified, which shall not include premises of less than three thousand six hundred square feet, of alcoholic liquor in packages with the seals unbroken, only, and not for consumption on the premises, except that wine tasting shall be permitted on such premises. Such licenses shall be only authorized in locations where the sale of packaged liquor is the main or principal business and/or in locations where the principal business is that of a drug store or grocery store, including those grocery stores referred to as "convenience stores."

(b) Class "B" beer and wine licenses as follows:

(1) Class "B-1" beer and wine licenses shall authorize the retail sale of beer and wine with meals for consumption on the premises where the major business is that of a restaurant having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than thirty-five.

(2) Class "B-2" beer and wine licenses shall authorize the retail sale on the premises specified, of beer and wine in original packages, unopened only, and not for consumption on the premises,

except that wine tasting shall be permitted on such premises. Such licenses shall be only authorized in locations where the sale of beer and wine is the main or principal business and/or in locations where the principal business is that of a drug store or grocery store, including those grocery stores referred to as "convenience stores".

(3) Class "B-3" beer and wine licenses shall authorize the retail sale of beer and wine with meals for consumption on the premises where the major business is that of a restaurant, as defined herein, with full kitchen facilities for on-site preparation of meals, and which is open for business for a single daily period between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., and for a single period on Sundays between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 4:00 P.M.

(c) Class "C" club licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises where the business is that of a club as defined herein.

(d) Class "C-1" licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises where the major and primary business is that of a Comedy Club. Provided, the sale of alcoholic beverages shall be authorized only during or one hour before the regularly scheduled performances.

(de) Class "D" restaurant licenses as follows:

(1) Class "D-1" restaurant licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises where the major and primary business is that of a restaurant located in a retail or freestanding structure and having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than one hundred twenty-five.

(2) Class "D-3" restaurant licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises by service bar only, where the major and primary business is that of a restaurant located in a retail or freestanding structure and having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than seventy-five.

(3) Class "D-4" restaurant licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises; and the retail sale of beer and wine only in original packages, unopened only, and not for consumption on the premises, subject to the following:

a. The licensed premises shall have a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than one hundred twenty-five.

b. Retail liquor sales for off-site consumption shall be limited to beer and/or wine produced on the licensed premises, such as a micro-brewery.

c. For any new license issued after July 1, 2000, not more than forty percent (40%) of food and on-site beverage consumption sales shall be derived from alcoholic liquor.

(4) Class "D-5" restaurant licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises, where the major and primary business is that of a restaurant located in the Concentrated Central Area as defined in the Downers Grove Zoning Ordinance, and having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than sixty but not more than one hundred twenty four.

(ef) Class "E" transition licenses as follows:

(1) Class "E-1" transition licenses shall be issued only for premises which were licensed by DuPage County for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor immediately prior to the annexation to the Village of the territory on which such premises are located; provided, however, that within three years of initial issuance of a Class "E-1" license,

a. The licensed premises must comply with the requirements for the issuance of a retail liquor license in the Village;

b. The licensee must apply for and receive such a license, or if no license of the necessary classification is available, the Liquor Commissioner may issue an "E-2" license as provided herein; and

c. The licensee must thereafter comply with the limitations of the license applied for and issued.

(2) Class "E-2" transition licenses shall be issued only for premises which were issued an "E-1" license and which comply with the requirements for issuance of a retail liquor license in the Village. Such license shall state limitations on liquor sales and required seating, if applicable.

(fg) Class "F" hotel licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises of a hotel, and the retail packaged sale of beer and wine in original packages to hotel patrons. This shall include sales occurring at facilities, or as part of activities, normally operated as an integral part of the hotel, such as, but not necessarily limited to, restaurants, cocktail lounges, room service and banquets. Provided, the licensed premises shall have at least one restaurant with a seating capacity of not less than one hundred twenty-five operated as an integral part of the hotel.

(gh) Class "G" recreation facilities licenses as follows:

(1) Class "G-1" recreation facility license shall authorize the retail sale of beer and wine for consumption on the licensed premises in a recreational facility having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than thirty-five.

(2) Class "G-2" recreation facility license shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises in a recreational facility of not less than 16,000 square feet and having a guest seating capacity, excluding outdoor areas, of not less than one hundred twenty-five.

(hi) Class "H" publicly owned golf course license shall authorize the retail sale of beer and wine for consumption on the licensed premises in a facility located on a golf course owned and operated by the Downers Grove Park District.

(ij) Class "I" catering license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic liquor in connection with the operation of an off-site catering business that serves alcoholic liquor in connection with the catering of foods for private functions and for consumption only on the premises where the food is catered. The sale of alcoholic liquor shall be incidental to the food service and if the catered event does not qualify as a private function, a special event license shall also be required for the location of the catered event. No cash bar shall be permitted. No alcoholic liquor shall be served at a single location for more than eight (8) consecutive hours. A licensee shall submit a report to the Village within thirty days following each July 1 and January 1 setting forth the location of each event the licensee has catered within the Village and the number of hours for which liquor and food were served at such events during the six months prior. In addition, such report shall describe any planned events currently scheduled by the Licensee.

(jk) Class "R" restaurant license shall authorize the sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises, where the major and primary business is that of a restaurant. Provided, not more than forty percent (40%) of food and beverage sales shall be derived from alcoholic liquor. In addition, bar seating shall be limited to twenty percent (20%) of the entire seating for the establishment.

(kl) Class "R-1" restaurant licenses shall authorize the retail sale of beer and wine for consumption on the licensed premises, where the major and primary business is that of a restaurant. Provided, not more than forty percent (40%) of food and beverage sales shall be derived from alcoholic liquor. In addition, bar seating shall be limited to twenty percent (20%) of the entire seating for the establishment.

(lm) Class "T" theater licenses shall authorize the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the licensed premises where the major and primary business is that of a theater, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Sales of alcoholic beverages shall be limited to contracted theater rentals.
- b. Alcoholic beverage sales shall not be allowed during regularly scheduled motion pictures or films.
- c. Sales shall be made from portable bars containing alcoholic liquor, mixes and related preparation materials. Such portable bars shall not have seats or stools for patrons at which to sit.
- d. Portable bars shall be removed and/or stored out of view during all regularly scheduled motion pictures.

e. No alcoholic liquor shall be served at a single contracted theater rental for more than six (6) consecutive hours.

f. Food service must be available during contracted theater rentals in which alcoholic liquor service exceeds two (2) consecutive hours. However, should there be a suspension of liquor service for a main event or attraction (at a minimum duration of one (1) hour), such food service shall not be required.

g. The licensee shall submit a report to the Village within thirty days following each July 1 and January 1 setting forth each contracted theater rental and the number of hours for which liquor was served during the six months prior. In addition, such report shall describe any planned events currently scheduled by the Licensee.

(Ord. No. 244, § 6; Ord. No. 279, § 1; Ord. No. 356, § 1; Ord. No. 634, § 1; Ord. No. 635, § 1; Ord. No. 1059, § 1; Ord. No. 1200, § 1; Ord. No. 1465, § 1; Ord. No. 1741, §§ 15 to 17; Ord. No. 2246, § 1; Ord. No. 2388, § 7; Ord. No. 2541, § 6; Ord. No. 2735, § 1; Ord. No. 2945, § 1; Ord. No. 2996, § 1; Ord. No. 3050, § 1; Ord. No. 3164, § 2.)

**SECTION 3.** That Section 3-14 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

**3-14. Term; fees.**

- (a) The term of each license issued hereunder shall be from July 1 to June 30.
- (b) The fee for the various classes of licenses shall be as follows:

<u>License</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
"A"	\$ 1,400.00
"B-1"	975.00
"B-2"	750.00
"B-3"	285.00
"C"	335.00
"C-1"	750.00
"D-1"	2,550.00
"D-3"	1,650.00
"D-4"	2,550.00
"D-5"	2,550.00
"E-1"	2,500.00
"E-2"	2,550.00
"F"	2,550.00
"G-1"	975.00
"G-2"	2,550.00
"H"	975.00
"I"	700.00
"R"	2,550.00
"R-1"	975.00
"T"	700.00

(c) Except as provided herein, there shall be no refund or proration of the license fee for any portion of a year prior to issuance or during which licensee ceases to engage in the business of selling alcoholic liquor. For any license issued on or after the first day of January of any year, the license fee shall

be prorated by dividing the fee set forth in subsection (b) by twelve and multiplying the resulting sum by the number of months, or parts thereof, remaining in the license year.

(d) For any change in classification issued on or before the first day of January of any year, the licensee shall be awarded a credit in the amount of the license fee previously paid by licensee in same license year for the same establishment.

(e) The annual fee shall be due and payable June 30 in each year. No licensee shall continue to engage in the business of selling alcoholic liquor unless such fee has been paid.

(f) All required fees shall be paid at the time of issuance of the license after approval by the local Liquor Commissioner pursuant to Section 3-12 of this Chapter. All such fees shall be forthwith deposited with the Village Treasurer.

(g) It is the intention of the Village to review and, if justified, adjust license fees annually based upon the costs and expenses incurred by the Village to administer this section. Provided, however, nothing herein shall require such review nor impair or prohibit any adjustment in fees as may from time to time, be approved by the Council. (Ord. No. 244 §§ 5, 6; Ord. No. 279, § 1; Ord. No. 356, § 1; Ord. No. 634, § 1; Ord. No. 635, § 1; Ord. No. 1059, § 1; Ord. No. 1200, § 1; Ord. No. 1465, § 1; Ord. No. 1741, §§ 15 to 17; Ord. No. 2167, § 4; Ord. No. 2246, § 1; Ord. No. 2388, § 7; Ord. No. 2541, § 6; Ord. No. 2735, § 1; Ord. No. 3050, § 2; Ord. No. 3377, § 1.)

**SECTION 4.** That Section 3-15 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as

follows:

**3-15. Limitation on number of licenses.**

The number of licenses in each classification as defined in Section 3-13 which it shall be lawful to issue shall be limited so that the licenses in force and effect at any time shall not exceed the following numbers:

Class "A" package liquor licenses not to exceed seventeen in number.

Class "B-1" beer and wine restaurant licenses not to exceed twenty-five in number. Effective July 1, 2000, no further Class "B-1" beer and wine restaurant licenses shall be issued unless issued as a renewal.

Class "B-2" beer and wine packaged liquor licenses not to exceed ten in number.

Class "B-3" beer and wine licenses not to exceed three in number.

Class "C" club licenses not to exceed six in number.

**Class "C-1" comedy club licenses shall not exceed one in number.**

Class "D-1" restaurant licenses not to exceed thirty-six in number. Effective July 1, 2000, no further Class "D-1" restaurant licenses shall be issued unless issued as a renewal.

Class "D-3" restaurant licenses not to exceed nine in number. Effective July 1, 2000, no further Class "D-3" restaurant licenses shall be issued unless issued as a renewal.

Class "D-4" restaurant licenses not to exceed two in number.

Class "D-5" restaurant licenses not to exceed four in number. Effective July 1, 2000, no further Class "D-5" restaurant licenses shall be issued unless issued as a renewal.

Class "E-1" transition licenses shall not be limited in number.

Class "E-2" transition licenses shall not be limited in number.

Class "F" hotel licenses shall not be limited in number.

Class "G-1" recreation facility licenses not to exceed one in number.

Class "G-2" recreation facility licenses, not to exceed one in number.

Class "H" publicly owned golf course license, not to exceed one in number.

Class "I" catering licenses, not to exceed four in number.

Class "R" full alcohol restaurant licenses shall be unlimited in number.

Class "R-1" beer and wine only restaurant licenses shall be unlimited in number.

Class "T" theater licenses, not to exceed one in number.

(Ord. No. 244, § 4a; Ord. No. 284, § 1; Ord. No. 356, § 2; Ord. No. 1059, § 1; Ord. No. 1200, § 1; Ord. No. 1395, § 1; Ord. No. 1465, § 2; Ord. No. 1741, § 21; Ord. No. 2246, § 2; Ord. No. 2541, § 8; Ord. No. 2735, § 1; Ord. No. 2861, § 3; Ord. No. 3050, § 3.)

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Village Clerk

[comedy]