

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 21, 1981

LETTER RECEIVED  
FROM MUSIC  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION  
RE BUSINESS  
LICENSE  
REQUIREMENT

The City Clerk presented the following letter which had been received from Mrs. Peggy Robertson, President of the Music Teachers Association of California:

"We would like to protest the business license now being required of music teachers in the City of Lodi. All music teachers have not been requested to pay this tax - but those who have been listed as belonging to the Music Teachers Association of California. (The MTAC is a non-profit organization which requires high educational standards and encourages continuing education of its teachers.)

Music is fully recognized in law as an educational subject. Yet; licensing seems to be based upon the false assumption that private teaching is more a business than an educational activity. Since music teachers are educators they should be exempt from license fees just as the public school teacher is exempt.

The license has other ramifications which concern our members. We do foresee higher license fees - including the possibility of county fees, as well as possible zoning restrictions. Because we teach in our own homes, and because we want to see every interested child have the advantage of a musical education, children in Lodi from every economic strata have had the opportunity to learn a skill which will serve them in adult life as recreation and as a means of participation in community life. Churches and many other community organizations depend upon those skills taught by the independent music teacher. Please help us to keep our lessons affordable.

Although we are not paid by LUSD, but by private citizens of Lodi, we strongly feel that we are and always will be teachers - not sellers - and we ask you to reconsider the appropriateness of requiring music teachers to have a business license."

A lengthy discussion followed with questions being directed to Staff and to Mrs. Robertson. No formal action was taken by the Council on the matter.

January 12, 1981

City Council  
City of Lodi, California

Dear Sirs:

We would like to protest the business license now being required of music teachers in the city of Lodi. All music teachers have not been requested to pay this tax - but those who have been listed as belonging to the Music Teachers Association of California. (The MTAC is a non-profit organization which requires high educational standards and encourages continuing education of its teachers.)

Music is fully recognized in law as an educational subject. Yet: licensing seems to be based upon the false assumption that private teaching is more a business than an educational activity. Since music teachers are educators they should be exempt from license fees just as the public school teacher is exempt.

The license has other ramifications which concern our members. We do foresee higher license fees- including the possibility of county fees, as well as possible zoning restrictions. Because we teach in our own homes, and because we want to see every interested child have the advantage of a musical education, children in Lodi from every economic strata have had the opportunity to learn a skill which will serve them in adult life as recreation and as a means of participation in community life. Churches and many other community organizations depend upon those skills taught by the independent music teacher. Please help us to keep our lessons affordable.

Although we are not paid by LUSD, but by private citizens of Lodi, we strongly feel that we are and always will be teachers-not sellers - and we ask you to reconsider the appropriateness of requiring music teachers to have a business license.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Robertson*

President of MTAC  
Lodi Chapter