

San Diego, California,
July 9th, 1919.

TO THE HONORABLE COMMON COUNCIL,
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

Your petitioners, respectfully pray your Honorable Body, either to amend the present ordinance or regulation to public dancing places or that the new ordinance be enacted along the following lines:-

1. That all places where dances are conducted, save and except those conducted by fraternal organizations, private homes or hotels where dances are conducted for bona fide registered guests only be required to operate under the same rule, regulations and restrictions as are now in force in other public dancing halls, whether same be conducted for profit or otherwise and whether a charge is made for dancing or not and that in each and every of said instances a reasonable license fee be required to be paid.
2. That no person or persons, organizations or hotels, or any other institution of any kind, character or description whatsoever shall permit any person male or female to wear any style of a hat while dancing, or to dance with their heads or bodies close together or to permit shadow dancing, shimie dancing or any other suggestive form of dancing which may in any way tend to demoralize or to incite passion of persons dancing or in any way to differ from the standard set forth in the conduct of public dancing in the present ordinance with the respect to Public Dance Halls.
That no person or persons, organizations, institution or hotel management permit a boisterous person or persons or any person or persons under the influence of liquor to participate in any dance or to attend a dance or to remain in or about the premises where such dance or dances are being held.
3. That none of the foregoing persons or institutions shall permit those under the age of sixteen (16) years to be present or in or about the premises where such dance or dances are being held save and except, when accompanied by one or both parents or by a legal guardian.
4. That no person or persons, organizations or hotel management shall conduct a dance at any time or place to which the general public is admitted or permitted to participate in dancing or to be in and about the premises where dancing is conducted, unless there be in attendance upon such dances so conducted a matron who shall first have received the approval of the Chief of Police of the City of San Diego, as a qualified matron; that such matron be required to report to the head matron of the Police Department only.

Your petitioners further present to your Honorable Body that the foregoing request is made in good faith and because they believe that the ordinance enacted by your Honorable Body with respect to the regulation and conduct of Public Dance Halls, in the City of San Diego is for the purpose of protecting the morals of those participating in such dances and to insure order and decorum so that such dances may be conducted without offense to any of the patrons of such places, and, your petitioners say that, in their opinion, it is quite as important that the morals of persons attending dances conducted by the classes hereinbefore referred to, be protected and that order and decorum be preserved as it is in places conducted solely as public dance halls, in other words, in all places where dancing is conducted for profit or where an admission fee is charged or a charge made for dancing uniform police regulation is essential. This applies as well to hotels where persons may purchase food and drink and afterward indulge in dancing, in our opinion, as where they go to places where dances only are conducted.

We believe that the public is entitled to have the morals of young persons conserved, not only in public dance halls but in any other place where dances are conducted in which the public are a portion thereof and are permitted to participate.

And we believe, this applicable whether or not a charge is made either for admission, for food and drink or for dancing only.

We believe that to permit one class of persons to do what is prohibited to another class is unfair and is conducive to and permissive of abuses which will result in thwarting the purposes of the present very commendable ordinance.

We respectfully request that a time be appointed for a hearing on this petition at which time all interested persons may have an opportunity to be present and heard.

W. B. Embrough
Victory Dancing Arena
By E. B. Halton

The Royal School for Dancing
By W. B. Embrough

Rachel J. Kicks

DOCUMENT No. 123235

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ALLEN H. WRIGHT
City Clerk.

BY Y A JACQUES
Deputy.

PETITION

OF

W. E. Benbough et al

FOR

Amend Dance
Hall Ordinance.

(Handwritten signature in a circle)

Referred to Conference Committee
By Council JUL 14 1919



Presented to Common Council and
ordered Filed JUL 30 1919