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17 February 2004

Mrs Constance Li
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Legislative Council Building
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Li,

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Matters relating to Application for Temporary
Places of Public Entertainment Licence**

Kwun Tong District Council members requested the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs to follow up on the following issues -

- (a) to exempt non-profit making activities jointly organized with Government departments from application for Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) licences;
- (b) to waive the fees for PPE licences for activities organized by non-profit making organizations;
- (c) to simplify the licensing procedures for (b) above; and
- (d) to waive the fee for a certificate of compliance issued by the Director of Fire Services (a pre-requisite for a PPE licence) for activities organized by non-profit making organizations.

The current situation is set out below -

- (a) activities jointly organized with Government departments have been exempted from obtaining PPE licences;
- (b) activities held in venues under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Service Department and the Home Affairs Department have also been exempted from obtaining PPE licences;
- (c) nominal fees will be charged to the following organizations applying for PPE licenses -
 - (i) a religious, charitable or welfare body, organization or institution recommended by the Director of Home Affairs; and
 - (ii) an educational institution or organization so recommended by the Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower.

The existing licence fee for one-off activities is \$1,790 (Hong Kong and Kowloon) and \$1,655 (New Territories), while the respective nominal fees are \$140 and \$520. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting a review on the differences in licence fees and nominal fees of a PPE licence in the urban and New Territories areas (please refer to the last paragraph);

- (d) the Administration has pledged to process temporary PPE licence applications issued for one-off activities within seven working days of the final verification inspection confirming compliance with all licensing requirements; and

- (e) the fee for a certificate of compliance issued by the Director of Fire Services (a pre-requisite for a PPE licence) prescribed by the Fire Services Department (Reports and Certificates) Regulations (Cap. 95C) is \$825. There is no provision for waiver or reduction for the fee under the said Regulations. It is the Administration's general policy to provide financial assistance to charitable and non-profit making organizations in the form of subvention, rather than fee waiver.

For activities eligible for subsidies under various funding schemes administered by the Government or District Councils, charges for these licences may be included as part of the funding applications.

The Panel has also requested the Administration to review the difference in fees of an annual PPE licence in the urban and New Territories areas and the validity period of PPE licences. The review is being conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. We will report to the Panel once the department has completed the review.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Hedy CHU)
for Secretary for Home Affairs