

ORDINANCE #66772
Board Bill No. 150

An ordinance pertaining to the entertainment tax as it applies to boxing matches, shows or exhibitions; providing for establishment of a pilot program to determine incentives to promote, encourage, and attract economic development and tourism through the boxing industry by suspending, from the effective date of this Ordinance to December 31, 2008, from the imposition and collection of the entertainment tax imposed by SECTION TWO of Ordinance 65669 on admission charges to any boxing match, show or exhibitions, requiring the filing of the amount of gross receipts on the admissions to such events and containing a non-savings clause and an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, there continue to exist, in the City of St. Louis (the "City"), areas of economic instability, economic decline and areas which suffer from a lack of continued economic investment, development and activities; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents and inhabitants to study the effects of the entertainment tax on boxing matches, shows and exhibitions and in the attraction of economic development, and an increase in revenue through the sale of concessions, souvenirs and other boxing related items, and the increase in tourism by suspending for a certain period of time the entertainment tax on such industry; and

WHEREAS, certain economic development and tourism activities through boxing activities in the City may serve to stabilize blighted areas, insanitary areas, or areas otherwise in economic decline in the City, and will significantly benefit the City by increasing and providing new revenues by the creation of new and increased sales on concession, souvenirs and other boxing related items; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the stability and expansion of the City's economy, the City wishes to create and provide an incentive to stimulate, promote and attract economic development and tourism by focusing on the boxing industry in the City by providing certain tax relief for a limited period of approximately three years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. The Board of Aldermen hereby adopts the foregoing recitals as findings.

SECTION TWO. The imposition and collection of the tax imposed on boxing matches, shows or exhibitions by SECTION TWO of Ordinance 65699 and codified as Section 8.08.010 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis is hereby suspended on boxing matches, shows, or exhibitions from the effective date of this Ordinance to December 31, 2008..

SECTION THREE. The officers, agents and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents and take such necessary steps as they deem necessary and advisable to carry out and perform the purpose of this Ordinance including conducting a pilot program studying the financial implications of such tax suspension as it relates to added City revenue through other tax revenues including the sale of concessions, souvenirs and other boxing related items, and the promotion, encouragement and attraction of economic development and tourism through the boxing industry.

SECTION FOUR. Any person or persons, partnership of whatever form, or corporation in the business of admitting persons or groups upon payment of an admission charge to a boxing match, show or exhibition shall report to the license collector quarterly the gross receipts derived from such admission charges.

SECTION FIVE. The section of this Ordinance shall not be severable. If any section of this Ordinance is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remaining sections shall not remain valid and the suspension of the tax shall be null and void.

SECTION SIX. This ordinance being necessary for the immediate preservation of public health, safety and general welfare and an ordinance addressing taxation, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor.

Approved: July 18, 2005