



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Liquor Permit Testimony
House Bill 47
March 3, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde and fellow members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to share my insights on the need for liquor permits for art galleries in Ohio.

Art galleries are quickly becoming a key component in the resurgence of many communities. I have been contacted by the Collective Arts Network and their over 70 member galleries in Ohio asking for permits that would allow galleries to serve alcohol on a limited basis. Currently to serve alcohol, a gallery must partner with a non-profit who has obtained a permit. I met with Director Porter of Commerce last year to see if this situation could be remedied administratively. He said they preferred that the legislature take action and set the parameters. LSC was able to tell me what year (2000) liquor permits became tied to non-profit organizations, but not the reasoning behind it.

Currently art galleries must obtain an F-2 Permit to provide alcohol to patrons at special events. An F-2 Permit may be issued to an association, corporation, or to a recognized subordinate lodge, chapter, or other local unit of an association or corporation organized **not for profit** and operated for a charitable, cultural, fraternal, educational or political purpose to sell beer and intoxicating liquor until 1:00 a.m., at an event not to exceed four consecutive days. The applicant may not be affiliated

with the holder of any class of liquor permit other than a D-4 permit. No more than one F-2 permit may be issued to any applicant in a 30 day period.

Art galleries are assets to our communities. One gallery who emailed their support stated, “Artists and galleries, who are many times the first responders in neighborhood revitalization should be encouraged to invite patrons of art and culture from the suburbs to their galleries and studios. These galleries and studios are often in parts of Cleveland that might not otherwise ever see these suburban dollars. And, ironically, quite often these suburban dollars do not even go to the galleries themselves. People in Ohio seem to love to GO to art shows as an event and attraction, but do not necessarily BUY the art. They do, however use the art show or art walk as an excuse to kick off the evening in a new location and go out to dinner at a local restaurant, hit a bar and do boutique shopping in the area the art has invited them to. So, the artists are actually providing a huge public service in a emerging neighborhood...they are the canary in the coal mine to indicate that a neighborhood is safe...this is the reason why I call them ‘first responders.’”

The D-9 liquor permit will allow art galleries to lawfully provide hospitality to patrons who are vital for the economic growth of our communities.