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Ohio Department of Commerce
Division of Liquor Control
6606 Tussing Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Dear Liquor Licensers:

I am planning a party to celebrate September 17th as it is Citizens Day in Canada. The party theme is going to be "Citizens Day 2004". I picked that theme because it pretty much sums everything up. I have long wanted to contribute to the cause of our continued peaceful co-existence in North America with our Canadian neighbors. We share quite a large border with Canada and I feel that we should not take it for granted that we are friends as opposed to enemies. And good friends like to go to parties together, so I am hosting my first annual Citizen's Day parade and party on Friday, September 17th. The guest list is rather large and it is growing daily.

Given my limited financial resources and my Canadian friends' propensity to drink Molson, I have determined that I will be unable to pay for all of the beer that will be necessary to keep the party alive and kicking, so I have a few questions that I think are best directed to your office.

Do I need a liquor permit if I intend to sell alcohol at my Citizen's Day parade and party? Would it make any difference if, instead of selling the alcohol, I place a mandatory tip jar by the ice cooler with suggested tip amounts posted and a party attendant there to make sure that people are donating their mandatory tips? Would I need to get a liquor permit if I decide to implement a small cover charge of \$1.50 per person just to cover the insurance and security costs? This, of course, would be in American money and not Canadian because I don't favor their exchange rate -- I hope that my Canadian guests don't take offense at that. It sure would be nice, though, if we Americans had paper currency in the denomination of \$1.50 to more easily meet the cover charge without making change. And I hate it when I go to the store and the cash register lady gives me Canadian coins in exchange for my American money, so I won't do that. I've crunched the numbers and \$1.00 per person just won't cut it, but I think it is absolutely ridiculous to ask for \$2.00 a person when we are celebrating Citizens Day of all things.

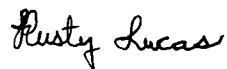
Like I said, the guest list is getting a little out of hand and so I may need to move my Citizen's Day parade and party to an alternate location because I think 1200 people will not comfortably fit into my house and yard. Will that decision affect my need to get a liquor permit, and/or affect the issuance of the permit if I later decide to change the location? If so, I will put that phase of

the Citizen's Day parade and party planning into overdrive so that the necessary paperwork on my permits can get moving. September 7th will be here before you know it!

With my guest list at 1200, I am looking at ordering approximately 200 cases of Molson, which allows four beers per guest. I know that some will not have that many, but I certainly do not want to run out. I also know that not everyone will show up, but with the way those Canadians are, I expect there to be plenty who show up uninvited also. I do hope that Michael J. Fox and Peter Jennings are able to make it as my special guests of honor.

Please let me know what I need to do to be in compliance with your department's regulations. The last thing I want to see happen is to have a liquor officer shut down our Citizen's Day parade and party right in the middle of the celebrating. That would be quite embarrassing if it happened in front of our Canadian guests. Also, we are planning to have dwarf tossing contests with a cash prize for the winning throw. Can you tell me if any of the other commerce departments would have jurisdiction over any necessary permits for that? I thought this would be a good time to showcase this sport, which is not yet an officially sanctioned Olympic sport. But we can always hope for the 2008 games in Beijing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Lucas".

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any baseball caps that have any official looking State of Ohio insignia? I would like to have a free one to wear at my Citizen's Day parade and party to let the others at the party know that I am an American and not a Canadian just for the sake of avoiding any misunderstandings. It is sometimes very difficult to tell us apart, eh? It would get a bit cumbersome to speak to everyone individually (1200 people, are you kidding me?!?) just to say, "Hello, I am your host, Rusty. I am an American and not a Canadian." So I thought if I put up a few signs instead informing people to look for the official Ohio baseball cap to identify their American host, that would free me up for more important hosting duties.