

Robert V Ferrara

From: mitailg-bounces@MIT.EDU on behalf of Steve Baker <sbaker@baker-wohl.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 12:35 PM
To: 'MIT AILG'
Subject: [mitailg] Update on Boston Assembly Occupancy Plans
Attachments: ATT00001.c

Dear Friends and Fellow Stakeholders of the FSILG Community at MIT:

We are writing to update you on the status of the assembly occupancy permits for the Boston FSILGs. As you will recall, last fall Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) notified MIT's Division of Student Life (DSL) that it did not have required information on file to permit the use of our Boston FSILG houses for assembly activities – parties and other large gatherings – and withdrew those properties' assembly occupancy permits until the appropriate applications are submitted and approved. The City's action meant that until each Boston FSILG was issued a new assembly occupancy permit, it could not hold any events that would cause its occupancy to exceed the posted residential limit shown on its dormitory license. DSL and the MIT Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) then partnered to hire two architects to prepare the necessary assembly occupancy plans and other documents for the Boston FSILGs. The required materials were submitted to Boston ISD on 19 December 2013.

In late January, Dean Henry Humphreys received a response letter from ISD. The City's letter advised Dean Humphreys that ISD is unable to approve the occupancy plans as submitted, and thus the prohibition on assembly use remains in place. Last Thursday evening, DSL and the AILG Board met and agreed that the best way forward is to hire a code consultant who is expert in the city's permitting process, to assist in preparing the additional information required. DSL has generously agreed to pay the initial cost of the code expert's review; once the ultimate costs of this effort are better known, we will mutually agree how to pay for them. Our hope is to resubmit a pilot application for one or two properties within a couple of weeks.

Deans Humphreys, Love, and members of the AILG Board will be holding an initial meeting with the code consultant on Wednesday, 12 February; we hope to be able to report more information on the result of that meeting to the AILG Plenary at our Thursday 13 February meeting.

Unfortunately, we do not have a definite timeframe for the resubmission; we hope to know more by Thursday. But in the interim, we ask for the entire community's continued patience and cooperation as we work toward an acceptable resolution of this issue with the City of Boston. If you have questions – and we are sure many of you will – please bring them to the **AILG's Plenary session at 7:30 am on Thursday in the 20 Chimneys room of the Student Center.**

In the interim, we hope and expect all Boston FSILGs will continue to comply with the City of Boston's assembly occupancy restriction.

Thank you,

Marlena Martinez Love
Assistant Dean and Director,
FSILG Office

Henry Humphreys
Senior Associate Dean,
Residential Life & Dining

Steve Baker '84
AILG Chair