

**224. AN “ORDINANCE CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND BINGO GAMES, BAZAARS AND RAFFLES”
(INITIALLY APPROVED FEBRUARY 5, 2018; FINALLY APPROVED MARCH 5, 2018)**

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2018 Public Act 17-231 required each municipality to be responsible for the permitting and enforcement of all bingo games, bazaars and raffles taking place in each municipality, as well as an necessary post-event reporting. The new requirements will be the responsibility of the chief of police, if there is no chief of police, then the municipality's chief executive officer is responsible for enforcement. In transferring these powers, the act (1) allows the municipalities to set the permit fees, but caps the amount, and (2) eliminates the administrative hearing process for violations involving these games. It instead allows anyone aggrieved by an order to appeal to Superior Court. Connecticut General Statutes Sections 7-169a and pertinent subsections, Sections 7-170 to 7-186 and those accompanying regulations adopted by the State of Connecticut Division of Special Revenue will be adhered to.

Bingo

Bingo registrations are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations in the City of Groton (i.e. charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans’ or religious organization, volunteer fire department or grange). Upon receiving their initial registration, they can apply for any of the following bingo permits:

- **Weekly** (*annual permit*)
- **Monthly** (*annual permit*)
- **Temporary Single Event** (*only allowed 2 per year permit*)
- **Senior** organizations consisting of members 60 years and older (*one time permit for each event*)
- **Parent Teacher Organization** (*annual permit*)

After each event has been permitted and the event is completed, the non-profit is required to file a financial return to the City of Groton, within 10 days, providing pertinent event information including the gross receipts, prizes awarded and net profit of which a payment of 5% of the net profit will be paid to the City of Groton. The 5% to the City of Groton will be waived if the net profit does not exceed \$100.00.

Bazaars and Raffles

Under the new act, the municipality only needs to investigate the bazaar or raffle applicants qualifications if the total aggregate prize exceeds \$7,500.

Specifically, Bazaar permits are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations wishing to run a bazaar in the City of Groton. Bazaar permit application fees are on a per day basis. *Examples of bazaar games are 50150s, tea cup and blower ball games.*

If total prizes for a bazaar game exceed \$7,500, the City of Groton is required to investigate the qualifications of the organization and verify the facts on the application.

After each bazaar has been permitted and completed, a verified statement to include gross receipts, expenses, net profit and prizes awarded is to be filed with the City of Groton by the organization at the end of the next succeeding month. There is no payment to the City of Groton in conjunction with the verified statement.

Raffle permits are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations wishing to run a raffle. There are various classes of raffle permits which are based on factors such as length of time tickets will be sold and the aggregate value of prizes to be awarded. The application fees differ for each raffle permit type. *Examples of raffles are cash prizes, duck race, cow chip.* If total prizes exceed \$7,500, the City of Groton shall investigate the qualifications of the organization and verify the facts on the application.

After each raffle has been permitted and completed, a verified statement to include gross receipts, expenses, net profit and prizes awarded is to be filed with the City of Groton by the organization at the end of the next succeeding month. There is no payment to the City of Groton in conjunction with the verified statement.

Fees

In accordance with Public Act 17-23, tables below define the charge by City of Groton for a permit under the act.

Bingo Permit Fees

Type	
Class A	\$75
Class B	\$10 per day
Class C	\$50

Definition of Bingo Class:

Permits shall be known as:

“Class A” which shall be annual one-day-per-week permits and shall permit the conduct of not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games on such day;

“Class B” which shall permit not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games per day for a maximum of ten successive days;

“Class C” which shall be annual one-day-per month permits and shall permit the conduct of not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games on such day

“Class A” permits shall allow the playing of bingo no more than one day weekly.

Not more than two "Class B" permits shall be issued to any one organization within any twelve month period. "Class C" permits shall allow the playing of bingo no more than one day per month.

Bazaar or Raffle Permit Fees

Type	
Class 1	\$75
Class2	\$30
Class3	\$60 per day
Class4	\$15
Class 5	\$120
Class6	\$150
Class 7	\$300

Definition of Bazaar or Raffle Class:

"Class No. 1" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within three months of the granting of the permit and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than fifteen thousand dollars;

"Class No. 2" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within two months of the granting of the permit and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than two thousand dollars;

"Class No. 3" permits shall permit the operation of a bazaar for a period of not more than ten consecutive days, excluding legal holidays and holy days on which the bazaar is not functioning. Any bazaar held under the authority of any such permit shall be held within six months of the granting of such permit;

"Class No. 4" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within one month of the granting of the permit and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than one hundred dollars;

"Class No. 5" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within nine months of the granting of the permit and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than fifty thousand dollars;

"Class No. 6" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within one year of the granting of the permit and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than one hundred thousand dollars;

"Class No. 7" permits shall allow the operation of a raffle which shall be consummated within fifteen months of the granting of the permit, shall allow no more than twelve prize drawings on separate dates and the aggregate value of the prize or prizes offered shall be not more than fifty thousand dollars.

No more than one "Class No. 1" permit, two "Class No. 3" permits, one "Class No. 4" permit, five "Class No. 5" permits, five "Class No. 6" permits or three "Class No. 2" permits shall be issued to any qualifying organization within any one calendar year. The aggregate value of prizes offered under any of such permits shall represent the amount paid by the applicant for the prize or prizes or the retail value of the same if donated.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on February 8, 2018 and February 9, 2018;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall be effective upon passage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council Finally Approve “An Ordinance Concerning Municipalities and Bingo Games, Bazaars and Raffles”

Initially approved: February 5, 2018

Finally approved: March 5, 2018