



**Portland Fire Department
Headquarters
Office of the Chief of Department**



MEMORANDUM

To: Alex Murphy
CC: Joe Gray; Chief Fred LaMontagne; file
From: Benjamin Wallace Jr., Fire Prevention
Date: 9/30/2008
Re: Gilberts Chowder House, 92 Commercial Street

With regard to capacity of the outside deck of the above-referenced property, I have found the following:

- The outside deck at Gilbert's Chowder house is presently approved for 40 occupants. I am unable to find a record of how this present number was determined; however, the City of Portland's Fire Prevention Code requires that any changes to seating must be approved by the Portland Fire Department.
- The owner may apply for an increase in seating with the understanding that, due to having only one means of egress from the deck, the number of occupants is restricted to 49 persons. If an additional exit is created per code, and pending the approval of the State Fire Marshal's office, the total square footage of the deck is adequate for seating 58 people.

Sincerely,

Benjamin A Wallace Jr., FPO
Fire Department
City of Portland, ME