

fond maker history:

## Zemun Magistracy

Local authority in Zemun, organized as Magistracy is set and established in 1751, right after Zemun became Free Military Community in 1749. Before Magistracy establishment, Zemun was under Ottomans rule from 1521 until 1717, and more as Christian than Muslim settlement; short time belonged under Vienna's Court Chamber, from 1717 until 1728. It was also in private possession of Šenborn family including: Batajnica, Surčin, Dobanovci, Jakovo, Boljevci, Kupinovo, Obrež, Ogar, Karlovčić, Prahovo, Pećinci, Golubinci, Popinci and Vojka, until it was bought and associated with the Military Border 1749, as many assets in Srem, in fear of Ottomans invasion after they have already conquered Belgrade 1739. In development of the City Government in Zemun we can differentiate two periods: from establishment in 1751 until 1871, when this institution performs as Zemun Magistracy, and period from 1871 until 1934 when it performed under different name as City Government in Zemun with some changes made in its organization. The Military Border, border area of Croatia and Slavonic, populated with Serbs, Croat, Romanians, Hungarians and number of Germans, organized as administration on military principle since XV century in purpose of defense from Ottoman Turks, during the rule of Maria Teresa (1746 – 1747) was divided on 5 border areas: Karlovac, Varaždin, Banat, Slavonia, Erdelj. Borders were divided on regiments, battalions, captaincy and municipalities. Zemun belonged to the Regiment of Petrovaradin, which represented Croat – Slavonic Border, together with Gradiška and Brod. In 1755, Zemun, as free Military Border, was extracted from the Regiment and directly subordinated to the command. From 1851 until 1869 it was in constitution of Serb – Banat Military Border. In that time, magistracies performed administrative, police and judicial authority; actually they represented municipality and the first judicial instance at the same time. Zemun enjoyed autonomy rights the same as the other magistracies in the Border, but being special privileged because of its status as Free Military Community in the Border. German was official language. In Magistracy development, its jurisdiction and organization, we can specify few significant moments: After being established, authority organization was formed in accordance with Engelshofen's Regulation announced on June 29, 1747, which gave the autonomy to the Magistracy. Its members choose the habitants of Zemun, as free citizens, released of military service. At first instance the Magistracy performed administrative duties - police work in the city area and judicial through lawsuits, but criminal files were sent to a higher instance. The Magistracy represented: 12 aldermen, city judge, two officers for receiving the oath, counter, officer (sindik) and two policemen which were helped by citizens and quart handyman in performing police work as night guard and providing the order on the market. Councilors, city judge, officers that keep the registry (pristav and sindik) made decisions. Administrative, higher supervisory authority was Regiment

Auditor of the Regiment of Husar in Banovci which processed criminal lawsuits, above it Royal Court in Osijek, and the highest instance was Judicial Collegiums of Vienna's Military Court.

Norm on organizing magistracies came into effect in 1755 in extracted, privileged communities. Extracted from the Regiment, Zemun became "oasis of citizens on military land", "true city municipality". The Magistracy consisted of 12 "wealthy and honorable citizens", which appointed general Command. Members of External Council were selected for: the City Judge, which was civilian, two officers which received the oath, appointed by General Command, so the city counter. Work was performed in collegiums named Council, consisted of 5 people. At the beginning there was one council, later two, especially for judicial and administrative files. Referent in judicial council was sindik, but in administrative city clerk.

In respect of administrative and juridical, the Magistracy represented authority on the first instance. The Magistracy processed city lawsuits and did the hearings, but Court of Generalat (military district with general on the head) processed criminal files. The Magistracy was subordinated to the Slavonic General Command and Command to the Vienna's Military Council. Military Command in Zemun, which cooperated with Ottomans authority in Belgrade and managed intelligence service in Belgrade, supervised Magistracy tasks implementation in domain of security and sanitary regulation maintenance. Foreigners, which lived in Zemun, were out of jurisdiction of Magistracy Court. Ottomans lawsuits did not process Magistracy Court, but Court within Headquarters and Border Office in Osijek. Since 1775, Military Court in Petrovaradin processed lawsuits of all Ottoman citizens, officers and priests in service. Beside the Military Court existed Court, who consisted of 3 citizens, and processed lawsuits resulted from trade. Since 1787, the Magistracy performed in accordance with the Regulation of Emperor Josef II, announced for communities of Petrovaradin, Zemun and Karlovci. The Regulation restricted autonomy rights of the Magistracy, and in some way militarized it. Instead of the City Judge appointed from the citizens, General Command appointed City major from the military officers, mostly captains. There was a Board of Citizens consisted of 24 people. Half of these members appointed Brigade of Srem in Mitrovica, in agreement with the Magistracy. Beside the Board of Citizens existed a Council too. It consisted of 4 members: two of them appointed General Command from the military officers, and the other two members the Board of Citizens in every three year. Sindik, city clerk and councilor were appointed by Appellant Court, later Vienna's Council, were considered officers with vote rights. Since April 1798, in accordance with approval of Vienna's Military Court, Council consisted of Major, two judges, two officers (sindik), city clerk and first office clerk. The Magistracy still implemented administrative, police and judicial authority. Towards judicial, it was the first judicial instance,

of reason of processing criminal and lawsuits of citizens, but for the verdicts considering over 25 hits and three months of prison, should exist Confirmation of the high, Appellant Court. Higher instance in sense of juridical was Appellation Court in Petrovaradin, from 1804 General Appellant Court in Vienna, but the highest instance represented Judge Department of Vienna's Military Court. After war against Ottomans was ended, supervising Military Command was intensified and lasted from 1791 until 1793. The Magistracy implemented its authority through juridical, administrative, economy department of police office consisting of pristav and manager. The Magistracy jurisdiction included doctors work, sergeants, pharmacists, midwife, which announced general Command on the Magistracy suggestion. Files were processed in different sessions. The Magistracy judged not Hungarian (Tripartiton), but according to Maria Teresa and Josef's laws. Official language was German, even the Major was obligated to understand Serbian also, and Delegate's and Court of elections still existed. Important event in the Magistracy development represented revolutionary years 1848-1849, when monitoring and juridical authority performed separately. March 1848, rebelled population of Zemun dethroned the Magistracy and elected Municipality Board consisting of 30 people, which should announce new Magistracy. November 29, General Command ordered the old Magistracy to be founded, but 24 elected councilors remained and Judge Court announced 3 councilors. When National Assembly in Karlovci proclaimed Serbian Vojvodina in May 1848, elected patriarch and Serbian Duke, announced Main Board, self-proclaimed for temporary government, the Municipality of Zemun elected Board of 7 people. This Board of Zemun, founded on revolutionary way, as national board, after became the prestigious political strength in the city, which is in charge of military, financial, economic affairs, took over this administrative, police duties of the Magistracy, and from December 1848, duties of Military Command too. In the Magistracy jurisdiction left only juridical authority. In that time Police Office implemented use of Serbian language. However, the Magistracy kept German, even all affairs were performed in Serbian in accordance of the Patriarch's Manifest from January 1849. Board of Zemun was in charge of the Magistracy, precisely Main Board, Government of Serbian Vojvodina that removed its central Office from Karlovci to Zemun in April 1849. National authority influence started to fall off since May 1849. In accordance with the Constitution proclaimed on March 4, 1849, Zemun organizationally stayed in Military Border. Towards administration of Zemun, the city depended from the VII Military District Command, exactly from the Ministry of Military, but jurisdiction of the city was subordinated to the General Appellant Court based in Vienna, and Royal Chancery. National Board had no more authority over the Magistracy. It performed the most urgent municipality jobs according to the general principles valid for German hereditary provinces, and was subordinated to the Government of Vojvodina. Military Command in Zemun was reconstituted and named Military and Brigade Command. Instead of Division Command in Petrovaradin, under Hungarian authority, was founded Troop Division Command in Zemun. This binary local authority existed in Zemun until August 1849. Board discontinued its performance

on August 23, when Community of Zemun as Regiment of Petrovaradin and River Battalion became subordinated to the Croat – Slavonic Military Command in Zagreb, in military, juridical and political domain. Reestablished the organization characteristic for the period before the revolution, at the end of December 1849, Zemun did not become a part of new founded Serbian Vojvodina. Magistracy was under control of Troop Division Command in Zemun and Border Brigade of Srem based in Mitrovica, precisely Military Command in the City of Temisvar until 1869 when came under authority of 23rd Royal Border Troop and Division Command in Petrovaradin and stayed until 1871. The old community administration was partly democratized in 1862, after one new declaration was announced, called The City Order, which established Municipality Council consisted of the major and at least 16 councilors. Habitants, paying at least 5 Forint of the yearly tax elected councilors. Performance of the Council was public. Sessions were kept. Its jurisdiction was not executive just consultant. In this period Peace Courts were implemented, reaching verdicts because of debts. Unmilitarization of the borders started in 1871 and last until 1873. Administrational and territory changes had been made, so the changes of justice. The Law of the cities within the Military Border arrange came into force in June 1871. In accordance with this law the military communities became free cities, having wider authority, but its habitants according to regulations of military service obligation, stopped to service the army, so since 1872 to pay contribution as well. Hungarian part of Krajina was affiliated to Hungary in 1873, but Croat – Slavonic part enlarged for a territory of the Regiment of Petrovaradin and organized the own, non-military administration even if belonged to the general Command based in Zagreb. Krajina was affiliated with Banovina Croatia in 1881. Reforms on organizing the municipalities were performed in Austria and Hungary, slowly after the feudal system was unahiliated in 1848. Ten years after Royal Plan of the municipality organization was established, changes had been made, administrational and judicial authority were disunited, at first in Krajina, than in Banovina Croatia. This changes affected also Magistracy development. Since 1871, the Magistracy, now named The City Administration in Zemun, performed only administrational and police authority, but juridical only courts of the first instance. Executive administration consisted of the City Council and executive authority, which had several departments. Habitants elected the City Council, and it had right of making decisions within municipality administration. The Major was elected among members of the City Council. The first elections in Zemun were performed on November 7, 1871 and than beside German, Croatian became official language. Authority in charged of the City Administration was General Command in Zagreb. Organizational structure of the Administration was the following: administration department, personal, financial, economic department, construction and town arranging department, hospital, security and school department. Enlarging duties, organization became more complex. The City Administration continued its work after Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, so Yugoslavia was created.

When Zemun became a part of the City of Belgrade in 1934, the City Administration stopped its performance. Its duties assumed Municipality of the City of Belgrade – Zemun department.