

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-127

AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE V, IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE NEED TO ENFORCE EXISTING BUSINESS REGULATIONS ENTITLED “REGULATION FOR NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION” AND ADDING SECTION 18.21 “REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES;” ADDING SECTION 18.21(a) ENTITLED “REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW BUSINESSES;” ADDING SECTION 18.21(b) ENTITLED “REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES;” AND AMENDING SECTION 18-23 ENTITLED “APPLICATION FEE” BY INCREASING THE APPLICATION FEE FROM \$50.00 TO \$200.00 FOR NEW BUSINESSES AND ADDING A TECHNOLOGY FEE OF \$150.00 FOR NEW BUSINESSES; AND BY CLARIFYING ALL BUSINESSES NEW AND EXISTING REQUIRE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY TO OPERATE, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION, PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AND DECLARING AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary, for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the City and its residents, to adopt and enforce regulations regarding the registration of businesses; and

WHEREAS, increasing the application fee from \$50.00 to \$200.00 for new businesses; and

WHEREAS, adding a technology fee for new business applications \$150.00; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify all businesses (new and existing) require a valid Certificate of Occupancy within the city that will help guide the orderly growth of new businesses and enhance the efficient delivery of city services, including police, fire; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify existing businesses operating with a valid Certificate of Occupancy within the city; and

WHEREAS, the Certificate of Occupancy must be posted to ensure the proper enforcement of businesses operating within the city.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1: ARTICLE V. – REGULATION FOR NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION to read as follows:

ARTICLE V. – REGULATION FOR NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Section 18.21 Registration requirements for new and existing businesses

Section 18-21(a) Registration requirements for new businesses.

Every new business must have a certificate of occupancy to conduct business within the City of Laredo:

1. The name of the business and the business owner
2. The address of the business and the address of the owner

3. The business telephone number and the cell phone of the number of the owner or manager
4. Type of business and/or primary business operation
5. Legal description of the business site
6. Signature of application indicating all information submitted is correct

A Certificate of Occupancy will be issued upon approval from the below departments and/or divisions within the departments, if applicable.

Certificate of Occupancy shall be posted conspicuously inside the building.

Section 18-21(b) Registration requirements for existing businesses.

Every existing business must have a certificate of occupancy to conduct business within the City of Laredo:

1. The name of the business and the business owner
2. The address of the business and the address of the owner
3. The business telephone number and the cell phone of the number of the owner or manager
4. Type of business and/or primary business operation
5. Legal description of the business site
6. Signature of application indicating all information submitted is correct

A Certificate of Occupancy will be issued upon approval from the below departments and/or divisions within the departments, if applicable.

Certificate of Occupancy shall be posted conspicuously inside the building.

Section 18-23 Application Fee

~~The application [applicant] shall pay an application fee of (\$50.00)~~

The fee for a change of name on an existing business will be fifty dollars (\$50.00)

Every new and existing business shall pay a registration application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

Every new business shall pay a technology fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the

City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. The City Secretary of the City of Laredo is hereby directed to publish the proposed Ordinance as required by Section 2.09 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective sixty days (60) from the date of the public hearing.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON
THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2024.**

**DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO
MAYOR**

ATTESTED:

**MARIO I. MALDONADO, JR
CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY**