

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: February 15, 2022
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: March 1, 2022

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Philip F. Etiwe, (915) 212-1553
Tony De La Cruz, (915) 212-1589

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: #3 Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

SUBGOAL: 3.1 Provide business friendly permitting and inspection process
3.2 Set one standard for infrastructure across the city

SUBJECT:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 (BUSINESS LICENSE AND PERMIT REGULATIONS), CHAPTER 5.03 (AMPLIFIED SOUND PERMIT), ARTICLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTION 5.03.020(A) AND SECTION 5.03.020(E) (DEFINITIONS), ARTICLE II (PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS) SECTION 5.03.040(B)(3) (PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESSING), ARTICLE III (DENIAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, AND APPEALS) SECTION 5.03.080(B)(5) AND SECTION 5.03.090(A)(2), ARTICLE IV (PERMIT STANDARDS), SECTION 5.03.110(A) (PERMIT STANDARDS), ARTICLE VI (VIOLATION; PENALTY) SECTION 5.03.130(C) VIOLATION AND ADDING SECTION 5.03.130(E); THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED IN 5.03.130 OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Council direction to review and update the sound amplification permit ordinance for applicability and enforcement.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

City Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 018907 on February 26, 2019, amending Chapter 5.03 of the El Paso City Code relating to outdoor sound amplification.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? X YES ___ NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Planning & Inspections, Planning Division

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Philip Etiwe

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 (BUSINESS LICENSE AND PERMIT REGULATIONS), CHAPTER 5.03 (AMPLIFIED SOUND PERMIT), ARTICLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTION 5.03.020(A) AND SECTION 5.03.020(E) (DEFINITIONS), ARTICLE II (PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS) SECTION 5.03.040(B)(3) (PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESSING), ARTICLE III (DENIAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, AND APPEALS) SECTION 5.03.080(B)(5) AND SECTION 5.03.090(A)(2), ARTICLE IV (PERMIT STANDARDS), SECTION 5.03.110(A) (PERMIT STANDARDS), ARTICLE VI (VIOLATION; PENALTY) SECTION 5.03.130(C) VIOLATION AND ADDING SECTION 5.03.130(E); THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED IN 5.03.130 OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, City Code Title 5 (business License and Permit Regulations), contains various sections regarding permits for various topics;

WHEREAS, On February 26, 2019 City Council enacted Ordinance 018907 establishing a Sound Amplification Permit; and

WHEREAS, City Council now desires to amend Title 5 of the City Code in order to make revisions to improve the Sound Amplification Permit function and process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Section 1. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article I (General Provisions) Section 5.03.020(A) and Section 5.03.020(E) (Definitions) be amended and replaced as follows:

5.03.020 (Definitions)

A. “Establishment” means any business entity in the City that utilizes amplification equipment at a non-residential property located within five hundred feet of a residential property as defined in this chapter, measured from the center of the outdoor area closest to the residential property, for the purpose of emitting sound to any outdoor area on the premises between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

E. “Outdoor Area” means any portion of the establishment premises that is not fully enclosed by permanent, solid walls and a roof, (including open roll-up-style doors, open windows, or open doors) where sound amplification equipment will be utilized for the enjoyment of establishment customers, includes fixed, non-portable structures used in conjunction with sound amplification equipment, including but not limited to stages, decks, risers, and lighting support structures.

Section 2. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article II (Permit Application Process) Section 5.03.040(B)(3) (Permit Application Processing) be amended and replaced as follows:

5.03.040 (Permit Application Processing)

B. Notification

1. On behalf of the applicant, the City must issue written notice of intent to acquire a permit to any property owner and any neighborhood association within a five hundred foot radius, measured from the center point of the outdoor area of the establishment. Each notification shall provide recipients with pertinent information to inform the city of the recipients' opportunity to provide comment on the application,

3. On behalf of the applicant, the permit official shall notify every abutting residential property owner and any other residential property owner(s) within a three hundred foot radius, measured from the center point of the outdoor area of the establishment, for the purpose of securing a written response from each notified property owner. Each notification shall provide recipients with pertinent information regarding his or her opportunity to contest an application. The written response to an opportunity to contest shall allow a person to submit evidence and specific reasons why the issuance of the permit would be detrimental to the community.

Section 3. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article III (Denial, Suspension, Revocation, and Appeals) Section 5.03.080(B)(5) (Denial) be amended and replaced as follows:

5.03.080 (Denial)

B. The permit official finds:

5. That more than twenty-five percent of the notified residential property owners within three hundred feet of the outdoor area provide the permit official with a written response contesting the permit;

Section 4. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article III (Denial, Suspension, Revocation, and Appeals) Section 5.03.090(A)(2) (Suspension and Revocation) be amended and replaced as follows:

2. Except in the case of a compliance plan approved by the permit official, during the time frame covered by the plan, the permit holder is found, after notice to the permit holder and opportunity for hearing, to be in violation of a provision of this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter, including, but not limited to the issuance of more than two citations resulting from Chapter 9.40 of the City Code, or more than two issued violations of the permit at the establishment;

Section 5. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article IV (Permit Standards) Section 5.03.110(A) (Permit Standards) be amended and replaced as follows:

5.03.110 (Permit Standards)

A. An establishment under a permit shall be allowed to emit sound up to 65 dB(A), measured by a sound meter at the property boundary.

Section 6. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article VI (Violations; Penalty) Section 5.03.130(C) (Violation) be amended and replaced as follows:

5.03.130 (Violation)

C. The City may suspend or revoke the permit when more than two violations of Chapter 9.40 have been documented and citations issued to the permit holder at the establishment to either the establishment owner, employee, or individual in control of the establishment at the time of issuing the citation.

Section 7. That Title 5 (Business License and Permit Regulations) Chapter 5.03 (Amplified Sound Permit) Article VI (Violations; Penalty) Section 5.03.130 (Violation) be amended to add Section 5.03.130(E) as follows:

5.03.130(E) (Violation)

E. The city may, in accordance with Chapter 54 of the Texas Local Government Code, bring a civil action against a person violating a provision of this chapter. The civil action may include, but is not limited to, a suit to recover a civil penalty pursuant to Section 54.017 of the Texas Local Government Code not to exceed \$1,000 for each day or portion of a day during which the violation is committed, continued, or permitted.

Except as herein amended, Title 5 of the El Paso City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leaser, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

(Signatures Continued on Following Page)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Russell Abeln

Russell T. Abeln
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

Philip Etiwe

Philip F. Etiwe, Director
Planning & Inspections Department

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E. "Outdoor Area" means any portion of the establishment premises that is not fully enclosed by permanent, solid walls and a roof, ~~and is identified in the sound impact plan~~ **(including open roll-up-style doors, open windows, or open doors)** where sound amplification equipment will be utilized for the enjoyment of establishment customers, includes fixed, non-portable structures used in conjunction with sound amplification equipment, including but not limited to stages, decks, risers, and lighting support structures.

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