



## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### - Important Information -

#### The City of Lakewood has changed its Business Licensing Regulations

**What happened?** On May 4, 2015, the Lakewood City Council adopted Ordinance No. 610 amending the City's business licensing regulations. These regulations are found in the Lakewood Municipal Code, Title 5. The new regulations take effect Monday, June 8, 2015.

**Why the changes?** Since City incorporation in 1996, business licensing regulations have not been regularly updated. Many of the current rules are no longer applicable, out-of-date, or inconsistent with state law. The current situation has led to confusion for both city staff who administer business licensing, and local businesses. This subject was brought to the attention of the Lakewood City Council which resulted in the changes in regulations described below.

**Okay, this sounds good so far. But what did you change?** Here's a summary:

- Carnivals & circuses, and outdoor public music festivals are subject to a temporary business license with conditions as appropriate.
- Bathhouses and theaters would obtain a general business license with conditions as appropriate.
- Wrecking yards and bondsmen are not required to obtain a City license.
- To bring the City's rules in line with state law, the penalty structure for massage businesses was increased

from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.

- The regulation of kennels and pets was moved to another section of the municipal code, Title 6 – Animals.
- Regulations for pawnshops, secondhand sales, antique, junk and/or salvage dealers, transient traders, private sales and flea markets were rewritten.

The new regulations were clarified by repealing sections that were duplicated under state law, and adopting state law by reference.

One of the big changes is the additional reporting requirements for second hand sales. Second hand sales transactions shall be reported electronically with LeadsOnline (<http://www.leadsonline.com>). LeadsOnline provides a free subscription service for second-hand merchants to register all transactions and allows uploading of photographs of the items sold, copies of transaction documents, and the type of identification used in the transaction.

- New reporting requirements for those businesses that host 10 or more temporary businesses.
- Creation of two basic business licenses, general and temporary. A temporary license is a business of a

short term or transitory nature. Temporary licenses apply to roving mobile vendors and vendors at flea markets.

- Temporary business licenses are no longer free of charge. The Council approved a \$60 fee (Council Resolution 2015-14). Other urban communities charge similar fees for temporary businesses.
- Casual sales licenses have been removed.
- Licenses, either general or temporary, are non-transferable.
- Some businesses are now exempt from business licensing (residential garage sales, small or part-time businesses engaged by minors with a gross annual income of less than \$1,000, stands that sell flowers, fruit, vegetables, produce, or plants grown on the property where the stand is located, and City-sponsored Farmers Market.)

### **That's quite a few changes, Lakewood!**

**Did you leave anything alone?** Yes, we did. The following categories/topics remain unchanged:

- Adult cabarets.
- Panorams, previews, picture arcades and peep show regulations.
- Solicitor and peddler regulations.
- Limitations on pawnshop businesses.
- Maintain the current \$60 fee for general business licenses.

### **Any dates which I should be aware of?**

**Yes! Monday, June 8, 2015!** That's the date the new regulations take effect. The new temporary business license fee also takes effect on this same day.

### **Okay, if I have questions, who should I contact?**

Contact the Community Development Department Services Counter, 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA

Development Services Counter Hours

Monday thru Friday,  
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM - 2:00PM to 4:30PM

Telephone No. (253) 512-2261