

City of Cottonwood Shores

ORDINANCE 4009

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD SHORES, TEXAS REGULATING "PEDDLERS AND ITINERANT VENDORS"; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; REQUIRING PERMITS; DEFINING PERMIT APPLICATIONS; ESTABLISHING BOND REQUIREMENTS; DEFINING INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND RELATIONSHIP THERETO; SETTING PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; SETTING TIME RESTRICTIONS; ESTABLISHING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND SETTING A DATE FOR PASSAGE

WHEREAS: The City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas desires to provide for the safety and well-being of its citizens. The City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas deems it essential to regulate Peddlers and Itinerant Vendors within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD SHORES THAT:

SECTION 1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the respective meanings ascribed to them:

- 1) **Goods or merchandise.** The phrase "goods or merchandise" shall mean any personal property of any nature whatsoever.
- 2) **Interstate Commerce** means soliciting, selling or taking orders for or offering to take orders for any goods, wares, merchandise, photographs, newspapers or magazines, or subscriptions to newspapers or magazines which, at the time the order is taken, are in another state or will be produced in another state and shipped or introduced into the fulfillment of such orders.
- 3) **Itinerant Vendor.** The term "itinerant vendor" shall mean all persons, as well as their agents and employees, who engage in the temporary or transient business in the City of Cottonwood Shores for selling, or offering for sale, any goods or merchandise, or exhibiting the same for sale, or exhibiting the same for the purpose of taking orders for the sale thereof, and who, for the purpose of carrying on such business or conducting such exhibits thereof, display, exhibit, sell or offer for sale such goods or merchandise upon or from a truck or other vehicle on the streets of the city, or who hire, rent, lease or occupy any room or space in any building, structure, other enclosure, vacant lot or any other property whatever in the city in, through or from which any goods or merchandise may be sold, offered for sale, exhibited for sale for the purpose of taking orders for the sale thereof, or who shall sell or offer for sale any goods or merchandise while upon the property of another, without the express written consent of the owner or occupant thereof. The term "itinerant vendor" shall not include or be construed to include anyone engaged in interstate commerce or anyone upon whom the provisions of this Ordinance would impose direct and unlawful burden on interstate commerce. "Itinerant vendor" shall also apply

to any person(s) asking, persuading or advertising for money or services without the contributor receiving equivalent goods or services in return.

4) **Peddler.** The term "peddler" means any person desiring to go from house to house or from place to place in the City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas, to sell or solicit orders for goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, newspapers, magazines or subscriptions to newspapers or magazines.

5) **Temporary.** The word "temporary," shall mean any such business transacted or conducted in the city for which definite arrangements have not been made for the hire, rental or lease of premises for at least one month in or upon which such business is to be operated or conducted.

6) **Transient.** The word "transient," shall mean any such business as may be operated or conducted by persons or by their agents or employees who reside away from this city, or who have fixed places of business in places other than this city, or who have their headquarters in places other than this city, or who move stocks of goods, or merchandise or samples thereof into this city with the purpose or intention of removing them or the unsold portion thereof away from the city before the expiration of one month, or who sell and offer for sale such goods or merchandise while upon the property of another, without the prior written consent of the owner or occupant thereof, or conduct such business away from their fixed places of business, if any, or who have no such fixed places of business.

SECTION 2. Restrictions

(a) It shall be unlawful for any "peddler" to go from house to house or from place to place in the City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas soliciting, selling or taking orders for or offering to sell or take orders for any goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, newspapers, magazines, or subscriptions to newspapers or magazines, without having first applied for, and obtaining a license to do so from the City Administrator of said City. It shall also hereafter be unlawful to sell or solicit in said city as aforesaid without displaying such license while engaged in soliciting selling.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any "itinerant vendor" to sell, offer for sale, exhibit for sale, or exhibit for the purpose of taking orders for the sale thereof, any goods or merchandise in the city without first obtaining a permit as herein provided. The City Administrator shall issue to any itinerant vendor a permit authorizing such itinerant vendor to sell, exhibit for sale, offer for sale, or exhibit for the purpose of taking orders for the sale thereof in the city, his goods, wares, or merchandise, only after such itinerant vendor shall have fully complied with all provisions of this article

SECTION 3. Permit Information

(a) That any person desiring to go from house to house or from place to place in the City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas, to sell or solicit orders for goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, newspapers, magazines or subscriptions to newspapers or magazines, shall make written application to the City Administrator of said City for a license to do so.

(b) In determining whether a license under this Chapter should be granted or denied, standards including but not limited to the following shall be taken into consideration:

1. Whether the proposed activity is likely to cause undue congestion of a public area.
2. The number and nature of past and present complaints against the applicant / agent for activities including but not limited to misrepresentation, fraud, selling defective merchandise, entering property posted or failure to promptly leave property when so requested.
3. Whether the applicant / agent has been convicted of the violation of a similar ordinance within the last five (5) years.
4. Whether the applicant / agent has been convicted of any felony, misdemeanor or greater, violation of any municipal ordinance other than a traffic offense, that would relate to the public health, welfare, safety and / or morals in the applicant / agent's conduct of business under this license.

(c) There will be up to a two (2) working days waiting period for results of criminal history checks for the applicant and all agents.

SECTION 4. Bond Required

The application for a license under this article shall be accompanied by a bond in the penal sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) signed by applicant/agent and signed, as surety, by a surety company authorized to do business in the state, conditioned upon final delivery of goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, magazines and newspapers in accordance with the terms of any order obtained prior to delivery and also conditioned to indemnify any and all purchasers or customers for any and all defects in material or workmanship that may exist in the article sold by the principal of such bond, at the time of delivery, and which bond shall be for the use and benefit of all persons that may make any purchase or give any order to the principal on such bond, or to an agent or employee of the principal; provided that in case the applicant/agent is a person, he shall be required to enter into only one (1) bond, in the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) as above required, which bond shall be to cover the activities of all its agents or employees.

SECTION 5. Fee Required

The permit fee for an agent or peddler shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Provided, however, any person engaging in any activity mentioned in this article through one (1) or more agents or employees shall, in addition to such twenty-five-dollar-fee, pay a license fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each additional agent or employee so engaged, all of which licenses shall be valid for a period not to exceed one (1) year from the date of their issuance. The fees herein provided for shall be used for the purpose of defraying expenses incident to the issuing of such license(s). If license is revoked, suspended, temporarily suspended or expires, no fees or expenses will be refunded.

SECTION 6. Interstate Commerce

(a) The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to persons engaged in interstate commerce as that term is herein defined; provided, however, that it shall be unlawful for persons engaged in interstate commerce to go from house to house or place to place in the City of Cottonwood Shores without having first registered with the City Administrator of said City.

(b) The registrant at the time of the registration, as herein provided for, shall submit for inspection of the City Administrator or City Administrator's designee, written proof of his identity which shall be in the form of a government issued driver's license, government issued identification card or United States passport. All above approved forms of identification must contain a photograph.

SECTION 7. Restrictions

(a) No person shall solicit within the city on a door to door basis except during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. No soliciting on Saturdays, Sundays, federal or state recognized holidays, each person that does solicit must have a license issued by the City of Cottonwood Shores.

(b) No licensee/agent under this Chapter shall refuse to leave private property when requested to do so by the owner, tenant, occupant or person in control of the property. No licensee/agent under this Chapter, shall enter upon private property and/or contact the owner, tenant, occupant or person in control of the property, when the private property has posted thereon a sign indicating no solicitation allowed, no trespassing, no solicitors, do not disturb, or words of similar import of any of these phrases.

SECTION 8. Non Transferable

A permit granted under this ordinance shall not be transferable nor give authority to more than one person to conduct a business as a peddler, but any person having obtained such permit as an itinerant vendor may have the assistance of one or more persons in conducting such business.

SECTION 9. Length of Permit

The permit provided for by this ordinance shall continue so long as such sale or exhibit is held in the city but in no event shall continue for more than one (1) year, and shall be prominently displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises where such sale or exhibit is being conducted and shall remain so displayed so long as any goods, wares or merchandise are being so sold or exhibited.

SECTION 10. Penalty for Violation

(a) An offense under this section shall be filed with the Municipal Court of Cottonwood Shores by complaint or citation issued by the Police Department or any Peace Officer of the State of Texas and is punishable by the assessment of a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day or portion of a day in which the violation occurs shall be considered a separate offense and may be filed as such in the municipal court.

- (b) A license under this Chapter may be temporarily suspended by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee, when the following occur:
1. The licensee or agent has made fraudulent, false or incorrect statements in the application or in the conduct of the licensee's business.
 2. The licensee or agent has violated this Chapter or has otherwise conducted the licensed business or activity in an unlawful manner or contrary to the provisions of this code applicable thereto.
 3. The licensee or agent has conducted business in a manner endangering the public welfare, health, safety, or morals.

The license may be temporarily suspended by serving notice on the licensee or agent. The notice shall state the reasons for suspension and shall state that the licensee has the right to appeal the suspension to the City Council by filing an appeal with the City Administrator within five (5) days of the delivery of the notice. The licensee or any agents shall not conduct activity, permitted by the license while the license is temporarily suspended.

Suspension of the license, whether temporary or permanent, shall not interfere with any prosecution of any violation(s) under this ordinance.

SECTION 11. Exemptions.

This entire chapter is and shall be deemed an exercise in police powers of the State and of the City for the public safety, convenience, comfort and protection of the City, its citizens and visitors. The provisions listed below will constitute viable and legal exemption to the requirement of this ordinance.

- (a) Any local governmental agency
- (b) Vendors of farm produce, poultry, stock or agricultural products in their natural state and who actually produce such products on their own premises, whether within or without the city.
- (c) Sale of goods, wares or merchandise donated by the owners thereof, the proceeds whereof are to be applied to charity or philanthropic purposes.
- (d) Any church, congregation, religious society, sect, group, or order which solicits funds for religious purposes; or
- (e) Any organization which solicits funds solely from its own assemblies not using public streets or public places for such purposes.

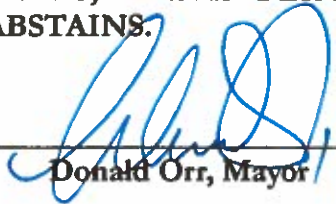
SECTION 12. Severability Clause

It is expressly ORDAINED that if any section or subsection, clause, sentence or paragraph of this

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ordinance shall be found to be illegal, invalid or void by any court of competent jurisdiction, then such findings shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance, but the same shall be valid and in effect, it being the expressed intention of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood Shores, Texas, to pass each and every sentence, clause, paragraph, section or exhibit individually.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014, AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD SHORES, TEXAS, THERE BEING A QUORUM PRESENT, BY 3 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSTAINS.



Donald Orr, Mayor





Sheila C. Moore
City Administrator/City Secretary