



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager, Finance  
Andy Cherullo, Finance Director   
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance – Amendment to Title 6- License and Tax Administrative Chapters –  
September 18, 2018  
**DATE:** August 30, 2018

**SUMMARY:**

Staff is proposing to amend the Administrative chapters, 6A.10 and 6B.10, of the Tax and License codes of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) in response to concerns raised about the effectiveness and viability of currently available tools to address problem businesses. The proposed amendments seek to address these concerns. Additionally, amendments have been made to the administrative chapters that are clean up and clarification of language.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Business License code reasons for revocation and suspension of a license have been too limiting in some situations, not allowing the City to take action that would resolve the issue. In addition the code does not provide for an option to issue a conditional business license.

**ISSUE:**

The proposed amendments to TMC 6A.10 and 6B.10 include:

1. Combining the revocation and denial reasons into one section providing clearer guidance and treating denial and revocation of a license similarly.
2. New “conditional business license” option.
3. Licensee cannot apply for a new license if the licensee had a license revoked or denied in the previous 12 months.
4. Added reason for denial if licensee has had three previous licenses revoked or suspended.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Maintain current enforcement option in the code. However, staff is recommending foregoing these alternatives in favor of a comprehensive revision focused on improving efficiency of application.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the proposed amendments to the Business License codes creating more tools for City staff to address problematic properties in the City. The amendments will establish a stronger enforcement process and shorter timelines. In addition, the clean-up of the language will provide consistency among the tax and license administrative chapters and clarify sections were needed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.