# AMENDING CHAPTER 22 – BUSINESSES, ARTICLE VI. – PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLAINE

**Cross reference**— Streets, sidewalks and other public places, ch. 70.

**State Law reference**—Peddlers and transient merchants, Minn. Stat. ch. 329; Municipalities may regulate, Minn. Stat. §§ 329.15, 437.02; Consumer protection; solicitation of sales, Minn. Stat. ch. 325G.

**IDIVISION 1. - GENERALLY** 

Sec. 22-271. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Peddler* means any person with no fixed place of business, who goes from house to house, from place to place, or from street to street, conveying or transporting goods, wares, services, or merchandise and offering or exposing the same for sale, or making sales and deliveries to purchasers.

Solicitor means any person who goes from house to house, from place to place, or from street to street, soliciting or taking or attempting to take orders for sale of goods, wares, services, or merchandise, including magazines, books, periodicals, or personal property of any nature whatsoever for future delivery.

Transient merchant means any person, who engages temporarily in the business of selling and delivering goods, wares, services, and merchandise within the city outside of a building with a valid certificate of occupancy, and who, in furtherance of such purpose, hires, leases, uses or occupies any vacant lot, lot, motor vehicle, trailer, tent, or railroad car.

(Code 1963, § 67.01; Code 1980, § 15-20; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 85-867, 3-7-1985; Ord. No. 90-1191, 3-1-1990; Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Cross reference—Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Secs. 22-272 22-290. - Reserved.

**DIVISION 2. - LICENSE** 

Sec. 22-291. - Required.

No peddler, solicitor or transient merchant shall sell or offer for sale any goods, wares, services, or merchandise within the city unless a license therefor shall first be secured as provided in this article.

(Code 1963, § 67.02; Code 1980, § 15-21; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Sec. 22-292. Application and issuance.

Application for such license shall be made to the city clerk on a form supplied by the city. The application shall state:

- (1) The name and address of the applicant and of all persons associated with the applicant in the applicant's business;
- (2) The manager or supervisor's name and business telephone;
- (3) The type of business for which the license is desired;
- (4) In the case of transient merchants, the place where the business is to be carried on;
- (5) The length of time and the hours for which the license is desired;
- (6) A general description of the thing or things to be sold;
- (7) The places of residence of the applicant for the five years next preceding the date of application. Blank applications shall be issued on payment of an amount established by council action which amount shall be credited on the license fee if the license is granted.

Every application shall include the recommendation of the police chief or designee after an investigation of the applicant and all persons associated with the applicant's business. The police chief or designee shall promptly report the results of the police investigations to the city clerk. If grounds for denial or revocation are not discovered in the police investigation the city clerk shall be so informed and shall issue a license to the applicant.

(Code 1963, § 67.03; Code 1980, § 15-22; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 98-1695, § 7, 2-5-1998; Ord. No. 07-2123, 3-8-2007; Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Sec. 22-293. - Fees.

- (a) Fees for licenses and investigations shall be established by council action.
- (b) All fees shall be paid in advance at the time of filing the application. If an application is denied, the license fee, but not the investigation fee, shall be returned to the applicant.

(Code 1963, § 67.04; Code 1980, § 15-23; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 85-868, 3-7-1985; Ord. No. 98-1695, § 7, 2-5-1998; Ord. No. 07-2123, 3-8-2007; Ord. No. 17-2394, 12-21-2017)

Sec. 22-294. - Duration.

Each license shall be valid only for the period specified and no license may extend beyond December 31 of the year in which it is granted.

(Code 1963, § 67.05; Code 1980, § 15-24; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979)

Sec. 22-295. - Transfer.

All licenses shall be nontransferable. No refunds shall be made on unused portions of licenses except by resolution of the council. Each peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall secure a separate license.

(Code 1963, § 67.06; Code 1980, § 15-25; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979)

Sec. 22-296. - Display of licenses.

At all times while peddling, soliciting or operating as a transient merchant, every peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall wear a city-issued photo identification license visible to all persons with whom the licensee comes in contact. The license shall set forth the licensee's name, the name and address of the business or organization and license expiration date and shall exhibit the license to any police officer, other city officer, or any other person to whom such licensee is or would peddle or solicit when so requested.

#### (Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Editor's note Ord. No. 15 2321, adopted August 6, 2015, repealed and replaced § 22 296, in its entirety. Former § 22 296 pertained to "To Be Carried," and was derived from Code 1963, § 67.07; Code 1980, § 15-26; Ord. No. 206, adopted November 6, 1969; Ord. No. 652, adopted September 6, 1979 and Ord. No. 07-2123, adopted March 8, 2007.

Sec. 22-297. Suspension/revocation of license.

Any license may be revoked for a violation of any provision of this article if the licensee has been given a reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard.

- (1) The city manager or designee may immediately suspend a license if the licensee, or any person working on behalf of the licensee, is determined to be conducting business in an unlawful manner, any manner that constitutes a breach of the peace or a menace to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public, or after repeated complaints received regarding conduct of business practices or method of solicitation.
- (2) Suspension must be reviewed by a hearing officer:
  - a. Notice and hearing. A suspension by a hearing officer shall be preceded by written notice to the licensee and a hearing. The notice shall give at least ten days' notice of the time and place of the hearing and shall state the nature of the charges against the licensee. The notice shall be mailed by regular mail to the licensee at the most recent address listed on the license application.
  - b. Cause to revoke license. The license issued pursuant to this section may be revoked after notice and hearing in accordance with this section for any of the following reasons:
    - 1. Any fraud, misrepresentation, or false statement contained in the registration or in the application for license.
    - 2. Any fraud, misrepresentation, or false statement made in connection with the selling of goods, wares, services, or merchandise.

- 3. Any violations of this article.
- 4. Conviction of the licensee of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- 5. Conducting the business licensed under this article in an unlawful manner or in such a manner as to constitute a breach of the peace or as to constitute a menace to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.
- c. Ability to reapply. Any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of this chapter shall not be eligible for a new license for a period of two years following the expiration or termination of the applicant's last previous license.

(Code 1963, § 67.10; Code 1980, § 15-27; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Editor's note Ord. No. 15-2321, adopted August 6, 2015, amended § 22-297, to read as set out herein. Previously § 22-297 was titled "Revocation."

Sec. 22-298. - Prohibited practices.

- (a) No peddling or soliciting shall take place between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, unless a previous appointment has been made, and peddling or soliciting is prohibited on Sundays.
- (b) Peddlers and solicitors are prohibited from accessing a person's business or property if a "no soliciting" sign is posted.
- (c) No peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall call attention to such person's business or to such person's merchandise by crying out, by blowing a horn, by ringing a bell, or by making any loud or unusual noise.

(Code 1963, § 67.08; Code 1980, § 15-28; Ord. No. 206, 11-6-1969; Ord. No. 652, 9-6-1979; Ord. No. 07-2123, 3-8-2007; Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Sec. 22-299. - Enforcement.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the police chief or designee, zoning administrator or designee, or community standards director or designee to examine all places of business and persons in their respective transient merchant locations subject to the provisions of this article to determine compliance with this article and to enforce the provisions of this article against any person found to be violating the same.
- (b) Citation charging a violation of this article may be issued by any law enforcement officer, any community service officer, zoning administrator or designee, or community standards director or designee.

(Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)

Sec. 22-300. Penalties.

In addition to any other sanctions that may be imposed, a violation of this article will constitute a misdemeanor.

(Ord. No. 15-2321, 8-6-2015)]

Division 1. – Generally

### Sec. 22-271. Purpose.

The City Council of the City of Blaine recognizes that transient and itinerant merchants, vendors, peddlers, solicitors, and canvassers, by the very nature of their operation whether from a fixed location or traveling door to door, may intrude upon the rights and privacy of other citizens and have a deleterious effect upon the public health, safety and welfare. The intent of this Chapter is to establish a uniform set of rules and regulations that are fair and equitable, and to develop a system for accommodating these businesses that will enhance the overall appearance and environment along public streets, pedestrian ways and other public properties. The regulations contained in this Chapter are not intended to prohibit or hamper speech that is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, but merely to regulate specific activities that are commercial in nature.

## Sec. 22-272. Definitions.

Except as may otherwise be provided or clearly implied by context, all terms shall be given their commonly accepted definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Non-commercial door-to-door advocate. A person who goes door-to-door for the primary purpose of disseminating religious, political, social, or other ideological beliefs. For purpose of this ordinance, the term door-to-door advocate shall fall under the term solicitor and include door-to-door canvassing and pamphleteering intended for non-commercial purposes.

<u>Peddler</u>. A person who goes from house-to-house, door-to-door, business-to-business, street-to-street, or any other type of place-to-place movement, for the purpose of offering for sale, displaying for exposing for sale, selling or attempting to sell, and delivering immediately upon sale, the goods, wares, products, merchandise, or other personnel property that the person is carrying or otherwise transporting. For purpose of this ordinance, the term peddler shall have the same common meaning as the term hawker.

<u>Person.</u> Any natural individual, group, organization, corporation, partnership, or similar association.

<u>Regular business day</u>. Any day during which the city hall is normally open for the purpose of conducting public business. Holidays defined by state law shall not be considered regular business days.

Solicitor. A person who goes from house-to-house, door-to-door, business-to-business, street-to-street, or any other type of place-to-place movement, for the purpose of obtaining or attempting to obtain orders for goods, wares, products, merchandise, other personal property, or services of which he or she may be carrying or transporting samples, or that may be described in a catalog or by other means, and for which delivery or performance shall occur at a later time.

The absence of samples or catalogs shall not remove a person from the scope of this provision if the actual purpose of the person's activity is to obtain or attempt to obtain orders as discussed above. For purposes of this ordinance, the term solicitor shall have the same meaning as the term canvasser.

<u>Transient merchant</u>. A person who temporarily sets up business out of a vehicle, trailer, boxcar, tent, other portable shelter, or empty store front for the purpose of exposing or displaying for sale, selling or attempting to sell, and delivering goods, wares, products, merchandise, or other personal property and who does not remain in any one location for more than fourteen (14) consecutive days.

## Sec. 22-273. Exceptions to definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the terms peddler, solicitor, and transient merchant shall not apply to:

- (a) Non-commercial door-to-door advocates. Nothing within this ordinance shall be interpreted to prohibit or restrict non-commercial door-to-door advocates. Person engaging in non-commercial door-to-door advocacy shall not be required to register as a solicitor under Sec. 22-296.
- (b) Any person selling or attempting to sell at wholesale any goods, wares, products, merchandise, or other personal property to a retail seller of the items being sold by the wholesaler.
- (c) Any person who makes initial contacts with other people for the purpose of establishing or trying to establish a regular customer delivery route for the delivery of perishable food and dairy products, such as baked goods or milk.
- (d) Any person making deliveries of perishable food and dairy products to the customers on his or her established delivery route.
- (e) Any person making deliveries of newspapers, newsletters, or other similar publications on an established customer delivery route, when attempting to establish a regular delivery route, or when publications are delivered to the community at large.
- (f) Any person conducting the type of sale commonly known as garage sales, rummage sales, or estate sales.
  - (g) Any person participating in an organized multi-person bazaar or flea market.
  - (h) Any person conducting an auction as a properly licensed auctioneer.
  - (i) Any officer of the court conducting a court-ordered sale.

Exemption from these definitions shall not, for the scope of this chapter, excuse any person from complying with any other applicable statutory provision or requirement provided by another city ordinance.

Secs. 22-274-22-290. Reserved.

Division 2. – License

#### Sec. 22-291. Licensing; exemptions.

(a) County license required. No person shall conduct business as a peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant within the city limits without first having obtained the appropriate license

from the county as may be required by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 329 as it may be amended from time to time, if the county issues a license for the activity.

- (b) City license required. Except as otherwise provided for by this ordinance, no person, including their employee or contractor, shall conduct business within this jurisdiction as a peddler or a transient merchant without first obtaining a city license. Solicitors need not be licensed, but are required to register with the city pursuant to Sec. 22-295.
- (c) Application. An application for a city license to conduct business as a peddler or transient merchant shall be made at least fourteen (14) regular business days before the applicant desires to begin conducting a business operation within the city. Application for a license shall be made on a form approved by the City Council and available from the office of the city clerk. All applications shall be signed by the applicant. All applications shall include the following information:
  - (1) The applicant's full legal name.
  - (2) Any and all other names under which the applicant has or does conduct business, or to which the applicant will officially answer to.
  - (3) A physical description of the applicant (hair color, eye color, height, weight, any distinguishing marks or features, and the like).
  - (4) Full address of applicant's permanent residence.
  - (5) Telephone number of applicant's permanent residence.
  - (6) Full legal name of any and all business operations owned, managed, or operated by applicant, or for which the applicant is an employee or an agent.
  - (7) Full address of applicant's regular place of business, if any exists.
  - (8) Any and all business-related telephone numbers of the applicant, including cellular phones and facsimile (fax) machines.
  - (9) The type of business for which the applicant is applying for a license.
  - (10) Whether the applicant is applying for an annual or six-month license.
  - (11) The dates during which the applicant intends to conduct business.
  - (12) Any and all addresses and telephone numbers where the applicant can be reached while conducting business within the city, including the location where a transient merchant intends to set up his or her business.
  - (13) A statement as to whether or not the applicant has been convicted with the last five
  - (5) years of any felony, gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor for violating any state or federal statute or any local ordinance, other than minor traffic offenses.
  - (14) A list of the three (3) most recent locations where the applicant has conducted business as a peddler or transient merchant.
  - (15) Proof of any required county license.
  - (16) Written permission of the property owner or the property owner's agent for any location to be used by a transient merchant.
  - (17) A general description of the items to be sold or services to be provided.
  - (18) Any and all additional information as may be deemed necessary by the City Council.
  - (19) The applicant's driver's license number or other acceptable form of identification.
  - (20) The license plate number, registration information, vehicle identification number
  - (VIN) and physical description for any vehicle to be used in conjunction with the licensed business operation.
- (d) *Fee.* All applications for a license under this chapter shall be accompanied by the fee established in the city licensing fee schedule as it may be amended from time to time.

- (e) *Procedure*. Upon receipt of the application and payment of the license fee, the city clerk will, within two (2) regular business days, determine if the application is complete. An application will be considered complete if all required information is provided. If the city clerk determines that the application is incomplete, the city clerk must inform the applicant of the required, necessary information that is missing. If the application is complete, the city clerk must order any investigation, including background checks, necessary to verify the information provided with the application. Within ten (10) regular business days of receiving a complete application the city clerk must issue the license unless grounds exist for denying the license application under Sec. 22-292, in which case the clerk must deny the request for a city peddler or transient merchant license. If the city clerk denies the license application, the applicant must be notified in writing of the decision, the reason for denial and the applicant's right to appeal the denial by requesting, within twenty (20) days of receiving notice of rejection, a hearing before a hearing officer, on behalf of the City Council. The hearing officer Council shall hear the appeal with twenty (20) days of the date of the request for a hearing. The decision of the hearing officer following the hearing can be appealed by petitioning the Minnesota Court of Appeals for a writ of certiorari.
- (f) *Duration*. Each license shall be valid only for the period specified and no license may extend beyond December 31 of the year in which it is granted.
- (g) Display of licenses. At all times while peddling, soliciting or operating as a transient merchant, every peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall wear a city-issued photo identification license visible to all persons with whom the licensee comes in contact. The license shall set forth the licensee's name, the name and address of the business or organization and license expiration date and shall exhibit the license to any police officer, other city officer, or any other person to whom such licensee is or would peddle or solicit when so requested.

## (h) License exemptions.

- (1) No license shall be required for any person to sell or attempt to sell, or to take or attempt to take orders for, any product grown, produced, cultivated, or raised on any farm.
- (2) No license shall be required for any person going from house-to-house, door-to-door, business-to-business, street-to-street, or any other type of place-to-place movement for the primary purpose of exercising that person's state or federal constitutional rights such as the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the like. This exemption will not apply if the person's exercise of constitutional rights is merely incidental to what would properly be considered a commercial activity.

#### Sec. 22-292. License ineligibility.

The following shall be grounds for denying a peddler or transient merchant license:

- (a) The failure of an applicant to obtain and demonstrate proof of having obtained any required county license.
- (b) The failure of an applicant to truthfully provide any information requested by the city as part of the application process.
  - (c) The failure of an applicant to sign the license application.
  - (d) The failure of an applicant to pay the required fee at the time of application.
- (e) A conviction with the past five (5) years of the date of application for any violation of any federal or state statute or regulation, or of any local ordinance, which adversely reflects upon the person's ability to conduct the business for which the license is being sought in a

professional, honest and legal manner. Such violations shall include, but are not limited to, burglary, theft, larceny, swindling, fraud, unlawful business practices, and any form of actual or threatened physical harm against another person.

- (f) The revocation with the past five (5) years of any license issued to an applicant for the purpose of conducting business as a peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant.
- (g) When an applicant has a bad business reputation. Evidence of a bad business reputation shall include, but is not limited to, the existence of more than three (3) complaints against an applicant with the Better Business Bureau, the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General or other state attorney general's office, or other similar business or consumer rights office or agency, with the preceding twelve (12) months, or three (3) complaints filed with the city against an applicant within the preceding five (5) years.
- (h) If the location for a transient merchant is proposed for an area not zoned Heavy Industrial (I-2A or I-2) as provided for in the Blaine Zoning Ordinance.

## Sec. 22-293. License suspension and revocation

- (a) Generally. Any license issued under this section may be suspended or revoked at the discretion of a hearing officer on behalf of the City Council for violation of any of the following:
  - (1) Subsequent knowledge by the city of fraud, misrepresentation or incorrect statements provided by an applicant on the application form.
  - (2) Fraud, misrepresentation or false statements made during the course of the licensed activity.
  - (3) Subsequent conviction of any offense to which the granting of the license could have been denied under Sec. 22-292.
  - (4) Engaging in any prohibited activity as provided under Sec. 22-296 of this ordinance.
  - (5) Violation of any other provision of this ordinance.
- (b) Multiple persons under one license. The suspension or revocation of any license issued for the purpose of authorizing multiple persons to conduct business as peddlers or transient merchants on behalf of the licensee shall serve as a suspension or revocation of each authorized person's authority to conduct business as a peddler or transient merchant on behalf of the licensee whose license is suspended or revoked.
- (c) *Notice*. Prior to revoking or suspending any license issued under this chapter, the city shall provide a license holder with written notice of the alleged violations and inform the licensee of his or her right to a hearing on the alleged violation. Notice shall be delivered in person or by mail to the permanent residential address listed on the license application, of if no residential address is listed, to the business address provided on the license application.
- (d) *Hearing*. Upon receiving the notice provided in part (C) of this section, the licensee shall have the right to request a hearing. If no request for a hearing is received by the city clerk within ten (10) days following the service of the notice, the city may proceed with the suspension or revocation. For the purpose of a mailed notice, service shall be considered complete as of the date the notice is placed in the mail. If a hearing is requested within the stated time frame, a hearing shall be scheduled with a hearing officer on behalf of the City Council within twenty (20) days from the date of the request for the hearing. Within three (3) regular business days of the hearing, the hearing office, on behalf of the City Council, shall notify the licensee of its decision.
- (e) *Emergency*. If, in the discretion of the city manager or their designee, imminent harm to the health or safety of the public may occur because of the actions of a peddler or transient

merchant licensed under this ordinance, the city manager or their designee, on behalf of the City Council, may immediately suspend the person's license and provide notice of the right to hold a subsequent hearing as prescribed in part (C) of this section.

(f) Appeal. Any person whose license is suspended or revoked under this section shall have the right to appeal that decision in court.

#### Sec. 22-294. License transferability.

No license issued under this chapter shall be transferred to any person other than the person to whom the license was issued.

## Sec. 22-295. Registration.

- (a) All solicitors and any person exempt from the licensing requirements of this ordinance under Sec. 22-291 shall be required to register with the city prior to engaging in those activities. Registration shall be made on the same form required for a license application, but no fee shall be required. Immediately upon completion of the registration form, the city clerk shall issue to the registrant a certificate of registration as proof of the registration. Registrations shall be non-transferrable.
- (b) Individuals that will be engaging in non-commercial door-to-door advocacy shall not be required to register.

#### Sec. 22-296. Prohibited activities.

No peddler, solicitor, transient merchant, non-commercial door-to-door advocate, or other person engaged in other similar activities shall conduct business in any of the following manner:

- (a) Calling attention to his or her business or the items to be sold by means of blowing any horn or whistle, ringing any bell, crying out, or by any other noise, so as to be unreasonably audible within an enclosed structure.
- (b) Obstructing the free flow of traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian, on any street, sidewalk, alleyway, or other public right-of-way.
- (c) Conducting business in a way as to create a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of any specific individual or the general public.
  - (d) Conducting business before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
  - (e) Failing to provide proof of license, or registration, and identification when requested.
  - (f) Using the license or registration of another person.
- (g) Alleging false or misleading statements about the products or services being sold, including untrue statements of endorsement. No peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall claim to have the endorsement of the city solely based on the city having issued a license or certificate of registration to that person.
  - (h) Remaining on the property of another when requested to leave.
- (i) Otherwise operating their business in any manner that a reasonable person would find obscene, threatening, intimidating or abusive.

#### Sec. 22-297. Exclusion by placard.

<u>Unless specifically invited by the property owner or tenant, no peddler, solicitor, transient merchant, non-commercial door-to-door advocate, or other person engaged in other similar activities shall enter onto the property of another for the purpose of conducting business as a</u>

peddler, solicitor, transient merchant, non-commercial door-to-door advocate, or similar activity when the property is marked with a sign or placard that is reasonably sized to be seen and states "No Peddlers, Solicitors or Transient Merchants," or other comparable statement. No person other than the property owner or tenant shall remove, deface, or otherwise tamper with any sign or placard under this section.

#### Sec. 22-298. Penalty.

Any individual found in violation of any provision of this ordinance, shall be a guilty of a misdemeanor.

### Sec. 22-299. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

### Sec. 22-300. Effective date.

This ordinance becomes effective on the date of its publication, or upon the publication of a summary of the ordinance as provided by Minn. Stat. § 412.191, Subd. 4, as it may be amended from time to time, which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statute Section 331A.01, Subd. 10, as it may be amended from time to time.

| Secs. 22-301 - 22-330 Reserved.                              |         |         |  |
|--|---------|---------|--|
| INTRODUCED AND READ in full theday of                        | , 2019. |         |  |
| <b>PASSED</b> by the City Council of the City of Blaine this | day of  | . 2019. |  |