

Economic Opportunity Committee Update: Entertainment License

CITY OF AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 14, 2015



DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

Overview

September 25, 2014: Council adopted Resolution No. 20140925-081 directing the City Manager to examine several issues to ensure the City is creating a safe and vibrant environment in downtown entertainment districts and report recommendations to the Austin City Council.



Issues Examined in Resolution No. 20140925-081

- Create an Entertainment license to support consistent enforcement of sound, safety and security provisions
- Make information about Conditional Use Permits available via Quick Response (QR) codes
- Expand public assembly code enforcement authority
- Identify the lead for the City's efforts to preserve or enhance the nightlife economy
- Determine cost and timeline for improved street lighting on Historic Sixth Street
- Activate closed streets on weekends for performance artists and mobile food vendors
- Open City garages for public night time use
- Examine the revocation of historic property tax exemptions for structures whose tenants have received multiple code violations related to fire safety and underage drinking

DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

Entertainment License

July 17, 2015: Staff recommended creation of an Entertainment License to support consistent enforcement of the sound ordinance, safety and security provisions.



Entertainment License Recommendation

Per July 17, 2015 Staff Report

1. Move amplified sound permits from City Code Chapter 9-2 (*Noise and Amplified Sound*) to Title 4 (*Business Regulation*)
2. Require businesses with amplified sound to obtain an Entertainment License to create a streamlined permitting process for music venues and nightlife establishments
3. Redefine “*Amplified Sound*”
4. Authorize City staff to suspend entertainment licenses for safety violations
5. Synchronize permit renewal periods and requirements for all venues



Thank you
Don Pitts, Music & Entertainment Division Manager
City of Austin Economic Development Department
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