



Proposed Ordinance Fact Sheet

Background:

The City of Branson is proposing an ordinance to establish municipal code definitions and amend zoning regulations pertaining to drag shows and drag show establishments operating within city limits.

The Planning Commission recommended passage of the ordinance to the Board of Aldermen at the July 6th Planning Commission meeting.

Why Is This Ordinance Being Proposed?

As a premier, and nationally known, family-oriented tourist destination that offers family-friendly live entertainment and attractions, the series of proposed changes within the ordinance are intended to preserve the City's values by restricting adult-oriented activities to a location of the City that currently allows such activities and where citizens and tourists can expect to encounter and attend such activities if desired.

What Does This Ordinance Do?

The City is empowered under state law to create zoning regulations that promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community.

The proposed ordinance seeks to provide specific definitions for "drag show" and "drag show establishment" in municipal code, while amending zoning regulations that would limit such activity to the Downtown District. In addition, a special use permit would be required.

Will Drag Shows Be Permitted In Branson?

All new or expanded drag shows or drag show establishments will be subject to the provisions of the proposed ordinance, if adopted into law by the Board of Aldermen.

The proposed ordinance amends City zoning regulations with the following summarized provisions:

- No drag show shall be permitted within 600 feet of any religious institution, school, or public park, or any property zoned for residential use;
- No drag show establishment shall be allowed to locate or expand within 600 feet of any other drag show establishment or of any business licensed to sell or serve alcoholic beverages;
- A drag show establishment shall be designed that all openings, entries, and windows prevent view into such facilities from any pedestrian sidewalk, walkway, street or other public area;

- No drag show activities shall take place partially or totally outside the establishment;
- No merchandise or pictures of products or entertainment on the premises shall be displayed in window areas or any area where such merchandise or pictures can be viewed from the sidewalk in front of the building.

Currently operating drag show establishments within city limits will not be impacted due to legal non-conforming constraints, often commonly referred to as being granted “grandfathered” in.

Why Will Drag Shows Be Restricted To The Downtown District?

The Downtown District was previously established as a zone where residents and tourists can expect to encounter cultural institutions, live entertainment venues, adult entertainment, and performers away from residential and neighborhood-adjacent districts. The City has zoned the Downtown District, where cultural institutions and popular entertainment such as live music, comedy shows, theater shows, dinner shows, and adult entertainment are permitted. The Downtown District appeals to adults, as opposed to the Entertainment District where family-friendly live entertainment is offered and which is inclusive to every member of the family.

In addition, the Downtown District ensures that the peace and safety of residential and neighborhood-adjacent districts are not negatively impacted by such entertainment.

When Can The Public Comment?

The Board of Aldermen will discuss the proposed ordinance at the July 25, 2023 City Council meeting at 6pm at Branson City Hall. All interested members of the public can speak during the Public Hearing on the item or watch the Board of Aldermen meeting live at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2IJ-fYhZKR47UqYdEnRmQA/live>.

What Happens Next?

The Board of Aldermen will consider this proposed ordinance at the July 25, 2023 City Council meeting for a vote. If the ordinance is amended and passed on first reading at this meeting, the Board will vote at the August 8th City Council meeting to adopt this ordinance officially into law with a prescribed effective date.

Where Can I Find Out More Information?

Please visit our website to view the full proposed ordinance and for more information, which can be accessed at: <https://bransonmo.gov/830/Agendas-Minutes>.