

**ORDINANCE NO.: 2020-030**

*Enacting Temporary Waiver of Business License Fees through May 15, 2020*

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 is responsible for an outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, and is a serious public health concern; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 The World Health Organization declared a world-wide pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States, Donald Trump has declared a Nation of Emergency for the United States and its territories in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster has declared a state of emergency for the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina Steve Benjamin has declared a state of emergency for the City of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to protect public health and the general welfare of the public to temporarily waive business license fees through May 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, includes requirements for the appropriate applications and for the issuance of business licenses to ensure compliance with the City Code, and,

WHEREAS, the emergency situation created by COVID-19 has resulted in a unique situation wherein the City of Columbia has been placed under an operational shutdown in order to ensure the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and businesses of the City of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, the City deems it in the best interest of its citizens to take all measures to assist business owners with the renewal of business licenses as required by Chapter 11 of the City Code; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, 17th day of March, 2020, that:

1. Waiver of Business License Fees through May 15, 2020. All business license fees for businesses located or doing business within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia shall be waived without penalty through May 15, 2020.

2. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent

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jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality, invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance.

3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and remain in effect through May 15, 2020, at which time it shall have no further force or effect.

Requested by:

Mayor and City Council \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Introduced: 3/17/2020

Final Reading: 3/17/2020