

**CHAPTER 85
LICENSE AND PERMIT PROCEDURES**

**TABLE
SUBCHAPTER 1
PROCEDURES FOR COMMITTEE
HEARINGS AND COMMON COUNCIL
REVIEW**

85-1	Purpose and Scope
85-2	Definitions
85-3	Notice and Service
85-4	Hearing Procedure
85-5	Council Action

**SUBCHAPTER 2
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
APPLICABLE TO LICENSE AND
PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

85-11	Purpose and Scope
85-13	Disqualification for License
85-15	Change of Circumstances

**SUBCHAPTER 1
PROCEDURES FOR COMMITTEE
HEARINGS AND COMMON COUNCIL
REVIEW**

85-1. Purpose and Scope. 1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of the common council to assure uniformity and clarity in the procedures under which certain licenses and permits are considered for renewal, non-renewal, suspension and revocation. It is the further purpose of the common council to guarantee to licensees, permittees and members of the public those protections of due process of law respecting a full and fair right to be heard upon adequate notice, to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to have the benefit of rules of evidence, and to present evidence and arguments of law and fact.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION. The provisions of this chapter shall not supercede or replace any provision contained elsewhere in this code respecting licenses and permits, but shall apply where provisions for notice, committee hearing or council action are otherwise silent.

85-2. Definitions. 1. APPLICANT means any person, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other firm causing, either directly or by agent or counsel, a written application for license or license renewal or for a permit or permit renewal to be filed with an office of the city for consideration and determination by the common council. For purposes of this chapter, applicant shall also mean a licensee or permittee subject to suspension or revocation proceedings.

2. COMMITTEE means the licensing committee or permitting committee designated by common council ordinance or rule to review and hear matters related to identified licenses or permits.

3. COMPLAINANT means a person or party who asserts an interest affected by the operation or proposed operation of a licensee, or the issuance or continuance of a permit, who files a written complaint in compliance with the provisions of this code or the provisions of state law with respect to the license or permit.

4. OBJECTOR means a person or party affected by the operation or proposed operation of a licensee, or who is or may be affected by the issuance or continuance of a permit, whose written objection is sufficient under this code to initiate proceedings for non-renewal, suspension or revocation of a license or permit.

85-3. Notice and Service. 1. NOTICE OF POSSIBLE NON-RENEWAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION. a. Unless otherwise provided, the city clerk, or other city official or department authorized by the code to receive applications for licenses or permits, shall provide written notice of the possibility of non-renewal, or of suspension or revocation of a license or permit to the applicant addressed to the person or agent at the address most recently provided by the applicant.

b. Written notice of possible non-renewal, suspension or revocation shall include:

b-1. The date, time and place of a hearing to be held by the committee.

85-4 License and Permit Procedures

b-2. A statement of the common council's intent to revoke, suspend or not renew the license or permit if objections, charges or allegations are found to be true.

b-3. A statement of the specific reasons for revocation, suspension or non-renewal.

b-4. A statement that an opportunity will be provided to respond to and challenge the reasons for revocation, suspension or non-renewal, and to present witnesses under oath and to confront and cross-examine witnesses under oath.

b-5. A statement that the applicant may be represented by an attorney of the applicant's choice at the expense of the applicant.

b-6. A statement that, if the applicant requires the assistance of an interpreter, the applicant may employ an interpreter at the expense of the applicant.

b-7. A statement that, upon conclusion of a hearing before the committee, the committee will prepare a written report and recommendation to the common council, and shall provide a copy of the report and recommendation to the applicant.

2. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS. Service of notices of meetings and service of other documents including committee reports and recommendations shall be made upon any party entitled to such notice and service by placing the same in the United States first class mail, postage prepaid.

85-4. Hearing Procedure. 1. AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE. The committee shall conduct hearings with respect to the non-renewal, suspension or revocation of a license or permit pursuant to this section. The chair of the committee shall be the presiding officer.

2. COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE. a. The chair shall advise the applicant of the right to proceed to a due process hearing represented by counsel with all testimony, both direct and cross examination, under oath or that the applicant may simply make a statement to the committee.

b. The chair shall direct that oaths be administered and subpoenas issued upon request of any party.

c. The chair shall ensure that an orderly hearing is conducted in accordance with the requirements of this section. The chair shall open the hearing with a statement that a notice was sent to the applicant, and, if the applicant appears, shall further inquire whether the notice was received. In the event that the applicant does not admit receipt of the notice and also denies knowledge of the contents of the notice, the chair shall ascertain whether the applicant wishes to immediately proceed to a full hearing or whether the applicant wishes the matter to be held to the call of the chair or to a time certain. The decision to proceed or to hold the matter shall be made by the committee.

d. The chair shall rule on objections to the admissibility of evidence. Any ruling of the chair shall be final unless appealed to the committee, and the committee shall reverse such ruling only upon the vote of a majority of its members.

3. RECORD. A stenographic record shall be made of all proceedings before the committee and before the common council when written responses or statements have been timely filed by the licensee, permittee or complainant or objector, if any. Any interested party may at any stage of the proceedings order a copy of the transcript of the record or portions thereof at his or her own expense.

4. GROUNDS FOR NON-RENEWAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION. The recommendations of the committee regarding the applicant shall be based on evidence presented at the hearing. Unless otherwise specified in the code, probative evidence concerning non-renewal, suspension or revocation may include evidence of:

a. Failure of the applicant to meet municipal qualifications.

b. Pending charges against or the conviction of any felony, misdemeanor, municipal offense or other offense, the circumstances of which substantially relate to the circumstances of the particular licensed or permitted activity, by the applicant or by any employe or other agent of the applicant.

c. If the activities of the applicant involve a licensed premise, having been the source of congregations of persons which have resulted in any of the following:

- c-1. Disturbance of the peace.
- c-2. Illegal drug activity.
- c-3. Public drunkenness.
- c-4. Drinking in public.
- c-5. Harassment of passers-by.
- c-6. Gambling.
- c-7. Prostitution.
- c-8. Sale of stolen goods.
- c-9. Public urination.
- c-10. Theft.
- c-11. Assaults.
- c-12. Battery.
- c-13. Acts of vandalism, including graffiti.
- c-14. Excessive littering.
- c-15. Loitering.
- c-16. Illegal parking.
- c-17. Loud noise at times when the licensed premise is open for business.
- c-18. Traffic violations.
- c-19. Curfew violations.
- c-20. Lewd conduct.
- c-21. Display of materials harmful to minors, pursuant to s. 106-9.6.
- c-22. Any other factor which reasonably relates to the public health, safety and welfare.

5. HEARING OFFICER. Where it is impractical for the committee to hold an evidentiary hearing, the committee may employ a hearing officer for the purposes of taking testimony and rendering recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law to the committee. When such hearing officer is employed, he or she shall prepare written findings of fact and conclusions of law which shall be simultaneously transmitted to the committee as well as to the applicant, the applicant's agent, manager, operator or any other employe of the applicant, and to the person bringing the complainant or objector. The chair of the committee shall schedule a hearing on the receipt of the report of the hearing officer in not more than 30 days from receipt of the report. Notice of the committee hearing on the report shall be given to all parties. The committee may take and reserve additional evidence at the time of said hearing. The committee may accept or reject the report of the hearing officer or make any changes to

the report which are warranted by the circumstances, the evidence presented and any arguments of the parties who appeared before the hearing officer and the committee. The committee shall transmit its recommendation to the common council for action as provided in sub. 6.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT. The committee may make a report and recommendations immediately following the hearing or at a later date. The committee may recommend that the license or permit be renewed, not renewed, suspended or revoked. In addition, if the committee determines that circumstances warrant, the committee may recommend that the license or permit be renewed conditioned upon a suspension of the license or permit for a defined period of time. When the committee elects to recommend that a license or permit be renewed with a period of suspension, the license or permit may be suspended for a period of not less than 10 days and no more than 90 days.

85-5. Council Action. 1. REPORT TO BE PROVIDED. Within 10 working days after it reaches a decision, the committee shall prepare and serve a report and recommendation upon the applicant and upon the complainant or objector, if any. The report and recommendations shall include specific findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. A copy of the report shall be distributed to each member of the common council.

2. FILING WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR RESPONSES. Following a recommendation by the committee that the license or permit not be renewed, or that the license or permit be revoked or suspended, the applicant may submit a written statement including objections, exceptions and arguments of law and fact. When the proceedings have been commenced upon the complaint or objection of an interested party who has appeared and offered evidence, the complainant or objector may also submit a written statement in response. Written statements shall be filed with the city clerk before the close of business on a day that is at least 3 working days prior to the date set for hearing by the common council.

85-11 License and Permit Procedures

3. COPIES TO BE PROVIDED TO COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS. A copy of any statement in response to the report and recommendations of the committee that is timely filed shall be provided to each member of the common council at least 24 hours before any vote on the question is scheduled before the common council.

4. PROCEDURE AT MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL. a. At a meeting of the common council following the receipt of the report and recommendations of the committee, the common council shall consider the report and recommendations. The city clerk shall notify the applicant, and the complainant or objector, if any, by United States first class mail, postage prepaid, 5 working days prior to the hearing before the common council, and shall also notify the city attorney, that the council will convene to act upon the report and recommendations.

b. Each member of the common council shall be asked to affirm that he or she has read the report and recommendations of the committee. When a written statement has been timely filed by the applicant, or by a complainant or objector, each member of the common council shall be asked to affirm that he or she has read the statement. If members of the council have not read the recommendation and report of the committee and any statement in response that has been timely filed, the chair shall allocate time for the members to do so.

c. Oral argument on behalf of the applicant, and oral argument by the complainant or objector, if any, shall be permitted only to those parties having timely filed a written statement. Oral argument shall be limited to 5 minutes. The city attorney shall also be permitted to make an oral presentation of not more than 5 minutes.

d. Applicants shall appear only in person or by counsel. Corporate applicants shall appear only by designated agents or counsel. Partnerships shall be represented only by a partner or counsel. Limited liability companies shall be represented only by designated agents or counsel. Complainants and objectors shall appear only in person or counsel. Any person making an appearance before the council who requires the services of an interpreter shall obtain one at his or her own expense.

e. The common council shall determine by a majority roll call vote of those in attendance and voting whether to adopt the recommendation of the committee. The city clerk shall provide written notice of the decision to the applicant, and to the complainant or objector, if any, including a written statement or summary of the reasons for the decision.

f. Unless otherwise expressly provided, the revocation of a license or permit shall be effective upon service of the notice of decision upon the applicant or upon any person having charge or control of a licensed premises. Suspension of a license or permit in proceedings for revocation shall be effective upon service of the notice of decision upon the applicant or upon any person having charge or control of a licensed premises. Suspension of a license or permit in proceedings for renewal shall be effective on the date of license renewal. A license or permit may be suspended for not less than 10 days and no longer than 90 days.

SUBCHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO LICENSE AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS

85-11. Purpose and Scope. 1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of the common council to assure uniformity and clarity in the procedures related to application for and administration of certain licenses and permits.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION. The provisions of this subchapter shall not supersede or replace any provision contained elsewhere in this code respecting licenses and permits, but shall apply where provisions for application and administration are otherwise silent. This subchapter provides uniform procedures for licenses and permit disqualifications and for consideration of changes in circumstances following denial, nonrenewal or revocation.

85-13. Disqualification for License.

1. APPLICABILITY. Whenever any application denied, or license not renewed, revoked or surrendered, is an alcohol beverage retail establishment or tavern entertainment license, the provisions of this section related to

License and Permit Procedures 85-15

periods of disqualification for these licenses shall apply to any other type of alcohol beverage retail establishment license.

2. EXCEPTIONS. This section shall not apply to any application that is denied or any license that is not renewed for a reason based solely on the failure of the applicant to appear before the licensing committee for a hearing on whether a new or renewal application shall be recommended for approval or denial to the common council.

3. WHEN DENIED. a. Except as provided in par. b, whenever an application is denied, no other application by the same applicant for the same license, and where applicable, at the same premises, shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee for a period of 12 months following the date of the denial.

b. Whenever an application for a new license is denied for a reason relating to the fitness of the location of the premises to be licensed, no other application by any party for the same license at the same premises shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee within 3 years of the date of the denial unless the applicant has demonstrated under s. 85-15 a change of circumstances since the denial.

4. WHEN NOT RENEWED. a. Except as provided in par. b, whenever a license is not renewed, no other application by the same applicant for the same license, and where applicable, at the same premises, shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee for a period of 12 months following the date of nonrenewal.

b. Whenever a license is not renewed for a reason relating to the fitness of the location of the licensed premises, no other application by any party for the same license at the same premises shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee within 3 years of the date of the nonrenewal unless the applicant has demonstrated under s. 85-15 a change of circumstances since the nonrenewal.

5. WHEN REVOKED. a. Except as provided in pars. b and c, whenever a license is revoked, no other new application by the same applicant for the same license, and where applicable, at the same or any other premises,

shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee for a period of 12 months following the date of revocation.

b. Whenever a license is revoked, no other application by any other party for the same license at the same premises shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee for a period of 12 months following the date of revocation.

c. Whenever a license is revoked for a reason relating to the fitness of the location of the licensed premises, no other application by any party for the same license at the same premises shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee within 3 years of the date of the revocation unless the person has demonstrated under s. 85-15 a change of circumstances since the revocation.

6. WHEN SURRENDERED. Whenever a license is surrendered in lieu of pending nonrenewal or revocation proceedings, no other new application by the applicant for the same license, and where applicable, at the same or any other premises, shall be recommended for approval by the licensing committee for a period of 12 months following the date of surrender.

85-15. Change of Circumstances.

1. ELIGIBILITY. a-1. Except as provided in pars. b and c, whenever an application accompanied by the fee specified under s. 81-19.2 and a written statement of changed circumstances is filed with the city clerk setting forth the change in circumstances relating to the fitness of the location of the proposed premises since the prior denial, nonrenewal or revocation, the committee shall hold a hearing to determine if changed circumstances exist.

a-2. Except as provided in pars. b and c, whenever the owner of the premises has filed with the city clerk the fee specified under s. 81-19.2 and a written statement of changed circumstances setting forth the change in circumstances relating to the fitness of the location of the proposed premises since the prior denial, nonrenewal or revocation, and no application for a license or permit has been filed, the committee shall hold a hearing to

85-15-2 License and Permit Procedures

determine if changed circumstances exist sufficient for removal of the disqualification.

b. No hearing under this section shall be held by the licensing committee within a period of 12 months following the date of denial, nonrenewal or revocation of a license for a reason relating to the fitness of the location of the premises.

c. Not more than one hearing under this section involving the same applicant or owner at the same premises shall be held by the licensing committee during the period of disqualification under s. 85-13.

2. HEARING. a. At the hearing, testimony and other evidence shall be limited to that offered by the applicant or owner, appearing in person or by counsel, to demonstrate a change in circumstances. The committee may also entertain relevant evidence offered by city officers and employees.

b. If the committee determines that the applicant or owner has failed to demonstrate that a sufficient change in circumstances exists, the period of disqualification shall remain in effect. If an application has been filed under sub. 1-a-1, then the committee shall recommend that the application be denied.

c. If the committee determines that a sufficient change in circumstances has been demonstrated, the period of disqualification shall be terminated. If an application has been filed under sub. 1-a-1, then the committee shall schedule a separate hearing on whether the application should be recommended for approval or denial.

d. In considering whether changed circumstances exist, the committee shall consider, among other factors:

d-1. A change in the type of license sought by an applicant.

d-2. A change in the number of premises holding the same license in the neighborhood.

d-3. A change in zoning applicable to the subject property.

d-4. New developments or land uses in the vicinity of the subject property.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
CHAPTER 85

Abbreviations:

am = amended
cr = created

ra = renumbered and amended
rc = repealed and recreated

rn = renumbered
rp = repealed

<u>Section</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ch. 85	cr	080009	5/20/2008	6/7/2008
85-0	am	080189	7/1/2008	7/19/2008
85-11	cr	080189	7/1/2008	7/19/2008
85-11-2	am	081724	5/5/2009	5/22/2009
85-13	cr	080189	7/1/2008	7/19/2008
85-15	cr	080189	7/1/2008	7/19/2008

85–License and Permit Procedures

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