

**Notice of Workshop**  
**February 17, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**  
City Council Chamber, 3947 Lincoln Ave., Groves, TX



**City  
Council**

Notice is given that the Groves City Council will hold a Workshop with the Planning and Zoning Committee in person on the date, time, and location listed above. Live streaming of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81626494673> or by scanning the QR code to the right. The City Council welcomes citizen participation at all City Council meetings on any agenda items within the limitations of law and decorum. City Council may adjourn into Executive Session to deliberate any agenda item listed if the matter for discussion meets an exception for Executive Session under Texas Government Code Chapter 551. The City Council may also deliberate in public on any item that is listed on the agenda for Executive Session.



**Opening Agenda**

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.
5. Welcome and recognition of guests and news media.
6. Reports from Mayor, Council Members, or city staff.
7. Citizen comments.

**Regular Agenda**

8. Deliberate on possible amendments to Sec. 9-1300 of the Code of Ordinances to allow business signs for home occupations in R-1 and R-2 Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts.
9. Deliberate on possible amendments to Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances concerning the regulation of peddlers.

**Closing Agenda**

10. Hear and deliberate on Council Member comments.
11. Adjourn.

**Special Accommodations**

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux at (409) 960-5773 or [cthibodeaux.cigrovestx.com](mailto:cthibodeaux.cigrovestx.com) at least three days before the meeting.

**Certification**

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board and front door of City Hall, 3947 Lincoln Avenue, on February 10, 2026, at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Groves

**City of Groves**  
**Agenda Item Information Form**

Council Meeting Date: 2/17/2026 Department: City Manager Agenda Item No. 8

Title for Item (same as to be placed on Agenda): Deliberate on possible amendments to Sec. 9-1300 of the Code of Ordinances to allow business signs for home occupations in R-1 and R-2 Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts.

Party(ies) requesting placement of this item on the agenda: Kevin Carruth, City Manager

Submitted to City Manager's Office on: Date: 2/13/26 Time: 2:00 p.m. By: C THIBODEAUX

Explanation of Item: See accompanying 2/13/26 City Manager's Memo.

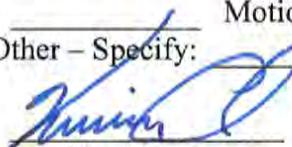
Deadline for Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative (if any) for consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify any attachments to this document: 1) 2/13/26 City Manger's Memo; 2) FAQ's; 3) proposed ordinance

Specific Council Action Requested: None (Information item only) \_\_\_\_\_ Motion X  
Ordinance – Number \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution – Number \_\_\_\_\_ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved:  Date: 02/13/26  
Department Head City Manager

**FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE)**

Are sufficient funds specifically designated and currently available for this purpose? YES  NO   
If yes, specify account no. \_\_\_\_\_ If no, explain and identify intended funding source:  
Transportation use fee.

**PAYMENT REQUEST**

Amount of requested payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative total of payments to date for this project/item  
(if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance due for this project/purchase (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL**

APPROVED:  NOT APPROVED:  Any follow-up action required? YES  NO   
If yes, explain City of Groves 2

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## MEMORANDUM

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To: Mayor and City Council

From: City Manager Kevin Carruth *KC*

Date: February 13, 2026

Re: Possible Amendments to Sec. 9-1300 of the Code of Ordinances to Allow Business Signage at Home Occupations in R-1 and R-2 Zoning Districts



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### **Background**

Approximately two years ago, Mr. Eric Gallier, who operates a home-based firearms customization business at 5001 Bellaire, contacted the City seeking a zoning compliance letter required for the issuance of a federal firearms license. During that process:

- A site visit was conducted by the Building Official.
- Follow-up phone calls and consultations occurred with staff and the City Attorney.
- It was determined that the business qualified as a home occupation.
- The City concluded the business would not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood due to minimal customer traffic, lack of excessive noise or fumes, and no on-site advertising.

Earlier this month, Code Enforcement received a complaint regarding a 3' x 8' vinyl banner displayed on the fence at the residence advertising the business. Staff advised Mr. Gallier that business signage is not permitted in residential zoning districts (R-1 and R-2) and that the sign must be removed.

Mr. Gallier disputes this determination, asserting:

- The sign has allegedly been in place for several years.
- The sign is used only as a landmark for occasional customers.
- The Code of Ordinances does not explicitly state that such signage is prohibited.

Multiple conversations have since occurred between Mr. Gallier and City staff and elected officials reiterating the City's interpretation of the ordinance.

### **What is a Business Sign?**

A business sign is any device, display, or structure designed to attract attention to or identify a business, product, service, or activity located on the premises. Some of the core purposes of a business sign are:

- **Advertising/Marketing** – Attracts attention and encourages customers to visit or purchase.
- **Communication** – Shares key information like hours, services, specials, or directions.
- **Identification** – Helps customers recognize the business (e.g., name, logo, address).

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3947 Lincoln Avenue, Groves, Texas 77619 Phone: (409) 960-5773 Fax: (409) 963-3388

**[www.cigrovestx.com](http://www.cigrovestx.com)**

In other words, a business sign is a notice or display that tells people who you are, what you do, how to find you, or how to attract them to your business.

### **Applicable Ordinance and Legal Interpretation**

The City Attorney has reviewed Section 9-1300 of the Code of Ordinances and concluded that:

- A sign identifying or advertising a business conducted on the same lot is classified as a “business sign.”
- Business signs are permitted only in P-1 and commercial zoning districts, not in R-1 or R-2.
- The Code does not contain any provision allowing business signage for home occupations in residential districts.
- The City lacks authority to permit a sign type that is not expressly authorized by ordinance.

Accordingly, under the current ordinance, business signage at a residence in an R-1 or R-2 zoning district is not permitted.

### **Policy Considerations**

#### A. Reasons to Consider Amending the Ordinance

1. **Clarity for Home-Based Businesses**  
A narrowly tailored allowance (e.g., small identification plaques) could reduce future disputes and ambiguity.
2. **Modern Home-Occupation Trends**  
Increasing numbers of low-impact home businesses may seek limited identification signage for delivery or customer access.
3. **Consistency with Other Jurisdictions**  
Some cities allow modest, non-illuminated home-occupation signage under strict size and placement limits.

#### B. Reasons to Keep the Ordinance Unchanged

1. **Protection of Residential Character**  
Prohibiting business signage preserves the residential appearance of neighborhoods and prevents incremental commercialization.
2. **Enforcement Consistency and Fairness**  
Allowing exceptions for one business would create pressure for similar allowances citywide and complicate enforcement.
3. **Slippery-Slope Concerns**  
Even small signage allowances can expand over time in size, number, or visibility, undermining the intent of residential zoning.
4. **Existing Adequate Alternatives**  
Home-based businesses may operate legally without signage, relying on digital mapping, online presence, and direct communication with customers.
5. **Clear Legal Authority**  
The ordinance is internally consistent and defensible as written, and staff actions align with the City Attorney’s interpretation.

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff recommends no changes to the Code of Ordinances.**

If the core purpose of a business sign is to drive traffic to the business and the purpose of R-1 and R-2 zoning districts is to restrict business uses, why would a home occupation need anything more than a street address to identify its location to the occasional visiting customer or vendor? The current sign ordinance clearly prohibits business signage in R-1 and R-2 zoning districts, including for home occupations. Maintaining the ordinance as written preserves neighborhood character, ensures consistent enforcement, and avoids unintended policy consequences. The City's position is legally sound and has been communicated clearly to the property owner.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

## **Business Signage at Home-Based Businesses**

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**1. What issue is the City Council being asked to consider?**

City Council is being informed of a code enforcement issue involving business signage displayed at a residence operating a home-based business in an R-1 or R-2 zoning district. The question is whether the City's current sign ordinance should be amended to allow business signage at residential properties used for home occupations.

**2. Is the business itself allowed to operate in a residential zoning district?**

Yes. Certain businesses may operate as home occupations in residential zoning districts if they meet specific criteria, including limited customer traffic and no adverse impacts on the neighborhood.

**3. Does approval as a home occupation allow business signage at the residence?**

No. Approval of a home occupation does not authorize business signage. Business operations and signage are regulated separately under the Code of Ordinances.

**4. What does the City's sign ordinance currently allow in residential zoning districts (R-1 and R-2)?**

The ordinance allows limited types of signs in residential districts, such as:

- Residential real estate signs
- Certain temporary or civic signs (e.g., school, church, or public agency signs)

The ordinance does not list business signs as a permitted sign type in R-1 or R-2 zoning districts.

**5. How is a "business sign" defined under the ordinance?**

A business sign is defined as a sign that directs attention to a profession, business, commodity, or service conducted on the same lot as the sign.

**6. Where are business signs allowed under the current ordinance?**

Business signs are permitted only in P-1 (Planned Development) and commercial zoning districts, not in residential districts.

**7. If the ordinance does not explicitly say "business signs are prohibited" in residential areas, why can't they be allowed?**

Under zoning law, uses and sign types must be expressly permitted. If a sign type is not listed as allowed in a zoning district, it is considered prohibited. The City cannot authorize sign types that are not permitted by ordinance 2025-12-30 MemoSignageR-1R-2.

**8. Does the length of time a sign has been displayed change its legality?**

No. The duration a sign has been displayed does not legalize a sign that is not permitted under the ordinance. Enforcement may occur when a violation is identified or a complaint is received.

**9. Why doesn't the City make an exception for small or low-impact business signs?**

Creating exceptions can:

- Undermine the residential character of neighborhoods
- Lead to inconsistent enforcement
- Create pressure for additional signage allowances
- Gradually commercialize residential areas

The current ordinance provides a clear, consistent standard.

**10. Could the ordinance be amended to allow limited home-occupation signage?**

Yes, the City Council has the authority to amend the ordinance. However, any amendment would require careful consideration of size limits, placement, enforcement challenges, and long-term neighborhood impacts.

**11. What alternatives do home-based businesses have for helping customers find their location?**

Home-based businesses may rely on:

- Online maps and GPS directions
- Websites and social media
- Direct communication with customers
- Appointment-only visits

These methods allow businesses to operate without physical signage.

**12. What is the staff's recommendation?**

Staff recommends no changes to the sign ordinance. The ordinance is clear, legally sound, and effective in protecting residential neighborhoods while still allowing home-based businesses to operate.

**13. Does this decision affect only one property?**

No. Any change to the ordinance would apply citywide and could affect all residential neighborhoods.

**14. What is the City's overall goal in maintaining the current ordinance?**

The goal is to:

- Preserve the residential character of neighborhoods
- Ensure consistent and fair enforcement
- Avoid unintended expansion of commercial activity into residential areas

1 CITY OF GROVES  
2 ORDINANCE NO. 2026-\_\_\_\_

3 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE CODE  
4 OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVES, TEXAS,  
5 SPECIFICALLY SECTION 9-1300, "SIGNS," TO ADD A  
6 NEW SIGN TYPE DESIGNATED "HOME OCCUPATION  
7 SIGN" AND TO PERMIT SUCH SIGNS IN R-1 AND R-2  
8 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS  
9 SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING  
10 FOR A PERMIT REQUIREMENT; PROVIDING FOR  
11 SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND  
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

13 WHEREAS, the City of Groves regulates the placement and characteristics of signs within  
14 its corporate limits through Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, specifically Section 9-1300,  
15 "Signs"; and

16 WHEREAS, under the current provisions of Section 9-1300, "Business signs" as defined  
17 in Section 9-1303 are permitted only in P-1 and C zoning districts and are not permitted in R-1 or  
18 R-2 single-family residential zoning districts; and

19 WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the public  
20 health, safety, and welfare to allow residents operating lawful home occupations in R-1 and R-2  
21 districts to display limited signage identifying such home occupations; and

22 WHEREAS, the City Council finds that such signage should be narrowly tailored with  
23 objective limitations on size, illumination, placement, and other characteristics to preserve the  
24 residential character of R-1 and R-2 zoning districts; and

25 WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that home occupations do not have a  
26 detrimental impact, including by customer traffic, on the surrounding R-1 and R-2 districts; and

27 WHEREAS, the City Council finds that requiring a permit for such signs will allow the  
28 City to monitor compliance and address any complaints;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
30 GROVES, TEXAS:

31 SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Chapter 9, Section 9-1300 of the Code of Ordinances of the City  
32 of Groves, Texas, "Signs," is hereby amended to add the following new sign type to the table of  
33 permitted signs:

Type	District
(9-1306) Home Occupation Sign: A nameplate sign identifying a lawful home occupation conducted on the premises, subject to the following restrictions: (a) maximum area of two (2) square feet; (b) non-illuminated; (c) mounted flush to the main structure; (d) maximum thickness of three (3) inches; (e) no moving parts; (f) limited to one (1) sign per lot; and (g) requiring a sign permit as provided in Section 9-1306.1.	R-1, R-2

34 **SECTION 2. PERMIT REQUIREMENT.** Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of  
35 Groves, Texas, is hereby amended to add a new Section 9-1306.1, "Home Occupation Sign  
36 Permit," to read as follows:

37 **Sec. 9-1306.1. Home Occupation Sign Permit.**

38 (a) *Permit required.* No person shall erect, install, or maintain a home occupation sign as  
39 described in Section 9-1306 without first obtaining a home occupation sign permit from  
40 the City.

41 (b) *Application.* Application for a home occupation sign permit shall be made to the City  
42 on forms provided by the City and shall include the applicant's name, address of the  
43 property where the sign will be located, a description of the sign including dimensions and  
44 materials, and such other information as the City may require.

45 (c) *Term.* A home occupation sign permit shall be valid for a period of twenty-four (24)  
46 months from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon application to the City.

47 (d) *Renewal.* Upon application for renewal, the City may consider any complaints received  
48 regarding the sign or the home occupation during the permit term in determining whether  
49 to renew the permit.

50 (e) *Fee.* The City Council may establish by resolution a fee for the issuance and renewal  
51 of home occupation sign permits.

52 (f) *Revocation.* A home occupation sign permit may be revoked by the City upon a finding  
53 that the sign does not comply with the requirements of Section 9-1306, that the home  
54 occupation is no longer being conducted on the premises, or that the permit holder has  
55 violated any provision of this Code related to the sign or the home occupation.

56 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion  
57 of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent  
58 jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such  
59 holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

60 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its  
61 passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

62 **SECTION 5. PUBLICATION.** The City Secretary is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance,  
63 or its caption and penalty clause, in the official newspaper of the City of Groves within ten (10)  
64 days of its passage.

65 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, at a  
66 regular meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2026.

67 \_\_\_\_\_  
68 **Chris Borne, Mayor**

69 **ATTEST:**

70 \_\_\_\_\_  
71 **Clarissa Thibodeaux, City Clerk**

72 The foregoing ordinance, including all the provisions thereof, is hereby approved as to form and  
73 legality.

74 \_\_\_\_\_  
75 **Brandon P. Monk, City Attorney**

**City of Groves**  
**Agenda Item Information Form**

Council Meeting Date: 2/17/2026 Department: City Manager Agenda Item No. 9

Title for Item (same as to be placed on Agenda): Deliberate on possible amendments to Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances concerning the regulation of peddlers.

Party(ies) requesting placement of this item on the agenda: Kevin Carruth, City Manager

Submitted to City Manager's Office on: Date: 2/13/26 Time: 2:00 p.m. By: C. THIBODEAUX

Explanation of Item: See accompanying 2/13/26 City Attorney memo.

Deadline for Approval: N/A

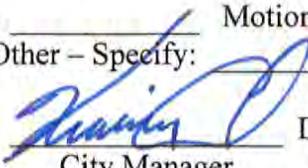
Staff Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative (if any) for consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify any attachments to this document: 1) Code of Ordinance; 2) draft ordinance; 3) Commercial

Solicitor License Application; 4) Criminal History Details.

Specific Council Action Requested: None (Information item only) \_\_\_\_\_ Motion X  
Ordinance – Number \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution – Number \_\_\_\_\_ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved:  Date: 02/13/26  
Department Head City Manager

**FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE)**

Are sufficient funds specifically designated and currently available for this purpose? YES  NO   
If yes, specify account no. \_\_\_\_\_ If no, explain and identify intended funding source:  
Transportation use fee. \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT REQUEST**

Amount of requested payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative total of payments to date for this project/item  
(if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance due for this project/purchase (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL**

APPROVED:  NOT APPROVED:  Any follow-up action required? YES  NO   
If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 19 - PEDDLERS

*Footnotes:*

-- (1) --

**Cross reference**— *Advertising, ch. 3; shouting of peddlers as unreasonable and prohibited noise, § 16-52.*

## Sec. 19-1. - Definition.

For the purposes of this chapter, the word "peddler" shall mean and include any person who shall go from house to house or from place to place in the city soliciting, selling or taking orders for or offering for sale or to take orders for any goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, newspapers, magazines, or subscriptions to newspapers or magazines. The word "peddler" shall also include all peddlers as they may be otherwise defined and all solicitors, hawkers, canvassers, itinerant or transient merchants or vendors of goods, wares, merchandise or services as the same may commonly be defined by state law or elsewhere.

(Ord. No. 35, §§ 2, 4, 3-25-54)

## Sec. 19-2. - Reserved.

**Editor's note**— Section 1, Ord. No. 87-12, adopted Mar. 9, 1987, repealed § 19-2, relative to refusal of peddlers to leave when requested, which provisions derived from Ord. No. 296, § 2, adopted June 29, 1964, and Ord. No. 393, § 2(6), adopted Aug. 19, 1968.

## Sec. 19-3. - Exception to chapter provisions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to sales made to dealers by commercial travelers or sales agents in the usual course of business, to sales made under authority and by order of law, or to vendors of farm or dairy products, except retail sales of ice cream in any form by peddlers.

(Ord. No. 35, § 6, 3-25-54)

**Cross reference**— Sale of ice cream, snow cones, etc., from vehicles in residential districts prohibited, § 11-1.

## Sec. 19-4. - Compliance with provisions prerequisite to engaging in business.

All peddlers must comply with the provisions of this chapter at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to going in or upon any private residence within the city for the purpose of engaging in business as a peddler.

(Ord. No. 393, § 2(7), 8-19-68)

**Editor's note—** Ord. No. 393, § 2(7) amended § 19-4 by deleting the last words reading "unless requested or invited to do so by the owner or owners, occupant or occupants thereof".

Sec. 19-5. - License required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in business as a peddler within the city without first having applied for and obtained a license so to do from the city marshal, or the designee of the city marshal.

(Ord. No. 35, § 2, 3-25-54; Ord. No. 2014-08, § 1, 10-20-14)

Sec. 19-6. - Application for license.

Any person desiring a license to engage in business as a peddler within the city shall make written application to the city, which such application shall show and contain the following:

- (1) The name and address of the applicant;
- (2) The name and address of the person, if any, that the applicant represents;
- (3) The kind of goods or services offered for sale;
- (4) Whether the applicant, upon any sale or order, shall demand, accept, or receive payment or deposit of money in advance of final delivery;
- (5) The period of time such applicant wishes to engage in such business within the city;
- (6) Whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony, and if so, the complete circumstances thereof;
- (7) The last five (5) cities wherein the applicant has worked before coming to the city;
- (8) Any applicant who has heretofore been issued a license to engage in business as a peddler within the city and who has violated the terms and provisions of the permit and/or the ordinances of the city or the laws of the State of Texas relating to the permit may be denied a license by the city.

(Ord. No. 35, § 3, 3-25-54; Ord. No. 393, § 2 (8), 8-19-68)

Sec. 19-7. - Fingerprints, photographs to accompany application for license.

At the time of making application for the license required under this chapter, the applicant shall submit to and be fingerprinted and photographed by the city marshal and such fingerprints and photographs shall be kept as a permanent record in his office.

Sec. 19-8. - No license fee.

There shall be no license fee for any license issued under the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 35, § 5, 3-25-54; Ord. No. 2014-08, § 1, 10-20-14)

#### Sec. 19-9. - Bond required.

Before any license shall be issued under the provisions of this chapter, the applicant therefor shall furnish a bond in the penal sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to the city signed by the applicant and signed as surety by some surety company authorized to do business in the state, conditioned upon the final delivery of goods, wares, merchandise, services, photographs, magazines and newspapers in accordance with the terms of any order obtained prior to delivery and also conditioned to indemnify any and all purchasers or customers for any and all defects in material or workmanship that may exist in the article sold by the principal on said bond, at the time of delivery, and that may be discovered by such purchaser or customer within thirty (30) days after delivery. Such bond shall be for the use and benefit of all persons that may make any purchase or give any order to the principal on such bond, or to any agent or employee of the principal.

Only one (1) bond shall be required of each applicant, even though such applicant shall have one (1) or more agents or employees; provided such bond shall be made to cover the activities of all of such agents or employees.

(Ord. No. 35, § 7, 3-25-54)

#### Sec. 19-10. - Issuance, contents.

No license shall be issued under the provisions of this chapter until the applicant therefor shall have complied with all the provisions and requirements of this chapter.

Such license, when issued, shall be signed by the city marshal, or the designee of the city marshal, shall be dated as of the date of its issuance, and shall state the duration or term of such license on the face thereof. Any license not dated and signed as herein required, or which was issued in violation of this section, shall be void.

(Ord. No. 2014-08, § 1, 10-20-14)

#### Sec. 19-11. - Duration of license.

Every license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be valid for the period of time stated therein, but in no event shall any such license be issued for a period of time in excess of one (1) year.

(Ord. No. 35, § 5, 3-25-54)

#### Sec. 19-12. - Hours of operation.

Any peddler to whom a license is issued under the provisions of this chapter may engage in the business of peddling between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The business of peddling between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. is hereby expressly prohibited.

(Ord. No. 132, § 1, 2-24-58; Ord. No. 2014-08, § 1, 10-20-14)

#### Sec. 19-13. - Display of license.

Every peddler licensed under the provisions of this chapter and doing business within the city shall display his license upon the request of any person, and failure so to display such license shall be deemed a misdemeanor.



39 **Sec. 19-1. Definitions.**

40 For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings  
41 ascribed to them in this section:

42 (a) "**Commercial solicitor**" means any person who goes from house to house, door to  
43 door, or from place to place within the city for the purpose of selling, offering for sale, taking  
44 orders for, or soliciting the future delivery of any goods, wares, merchandise, or services in  
45 exchange for payment, deposit, or other consideration, whether for present or future delivery.

46 (b) "**Canvasser**" means any person who goes from house to house, door to door, or from  
47 place to place within the city for the purpose of:

48 (1) Distributing handbills, circulars, religious tracts, political literature, or other printed or  
49 written material;

50 (2) Enlisting support for or against any religion, philosophy, ideology, political party,  
51 political candidate, or political or social cause or issue;

52 (3) Conducting public opinion polls or surveys; or

53 (4) Engaging in any other activity protected by the First Amendment to the United States  
54 Constitution that does not involve a commercial transaction.

55 (c) "**No solicitation sign**" means a sign, placard, or notice posted at or near the entrance  
56 of a residence that bears the words "No Soliciting," "No Solicitors," "No Peddlers," "No  
57 Trespassing," or words of similar import, and that is reasonably visible to a person approaching  
58 the entrance.

59 (d) "**Person**" means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or other  
60 entity.

61 (e) "**City marshal**" means the City Marshal of the City of Groves or the City Marshal's  
62 designee.

63 **Sec. 19-2. Exemptions.**

64 (a) **Canvasser exemption.** The licensing, bonding, fingerprinting, and application  
65 requirements of this chapter shall not apply to canvassers. Canvassers shall be subject only to the  
66 hours of operation provisions of Section 19-12 and the no solicitation sign compliance provisions  
67 of Section 19-14.

68 (b) **Charitable fundraising exemption.** The licensing, registration fee, bonding,  
69 fingerprinting, and application requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any person engaged  
70 in door-to-door sales or solicitation of orders exclusively for the benefit of a bona fide charitable,  
71 religious, philanthropic, or nonprofit organization, including but not limited to youth  
72 organizations, scouting organizations, school-affiliated groups, booster clubs, and parent-teacher  
73 associations, when the proceeds of such sales or solicitation are used solely for the charitable,

74 educational, or civic purposes of the organization. Persons claiming this exemption shall, upon  
75 request by the city marshal or any law enforcement officer, identify the organization on whose  
76 behalf the solicitation is being conducted and provide the name and contact information of a  
77 responsible officer of such organization. Persons exempt under this subsection shall remain  
78 subject to the hours of operation provisions of Section 19-12 and the no solicitation sign  
79 compliance provisions of Section 19-14.

80 **(c) General exemptions.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

81 (1) Sales made to dealers by commercial travelers or sales agents in the usual course of  
82 business;

83 (2) Sales made under authority and by order of law;

84 (3) Vendors of farm or dairy products, except retail sales of ice cream in any form by  
85 commercial solicitors;

86 (4) Any person holding a valid license, registration, or certificate issued by the State of  
87 Texas under the Texas Occupations Code that authorizes the person to engage in the  
88 specific activity for which the license was issued, including but not limited to persons  
89 licensed under Chapters 1702 (Security Services), 1801 (Commission Merchants), and  
90 1803 (Public Safety Solicitors), provided such person presents proof of current state  
91 licensure upon request; or

92 (5) Any person participating in a community-wide event or civic function authorized or  
93 sponsored by the City of Groves.

94 **Sec. 19-3. Reserved.**

95 **Sec. 19-4. Compliance with chapter prerequisite to engaging in business.**

96 All commercial solicitors must comply with the provisions of this chapter prior to  
97 engaging in commercial solicitation within the city. No commercial solicitor shall engage in  
98 business within the city without having first obtained a license as provided in this chapter.

99 **Sec. 19-5. License required.**

100 It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in business as a commercial solicitor within  
101 the city without first having applied for and obtained a license to do so from the city marshal.

102 **Sec. 19-6. Application for license.**

103 **(a)** Any person desiring a license to engage in business as a commercial solicitor within  
104 the city shall make written application to the city marshal. The application shall contain the  
105 following information:

- 106 (1) The full legal name, current mailing address, and telephone number of the applicant;  
107 (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the person, firm, or corporation, if any,  
108 that the applicant represents;  
109 (3) A description of the kind of goods, wares, merchandise, or services offered for sale;  
110 (4) Whether the applicant, upon any sale or order, shall demand, accept, or receive  
111 payment or deposit of money in advance of final delivery;  
112 (5) The period of time the applicant wishes to engage in commercial solicitation within  
113 the city;  
114 (6) Whether the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offense as described in  
115 Section 19-6(b); and  
116 (7) Two forms of government-issued identification, at least one of which must bear a  
117 photograph of the applicant.

118 **(b) Criminal history standard.** A license may be denied to an applicant who has been  
119 convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving fraud, theft, assault, burglary, robbery, or other  
120 crime of dishonesty or violence within the preceding five (5) years, where the criminal conduct  
121 directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of a commercial solicitor. In determining  
122 whether a criminal conviction directly relates to the duties of a commercial solicitor, the city  
123 marshal shall consider the factors set forth in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53 or its  
124 successor statute. Traffic violations, Class C misdemeanors not involving dishonesty or violence,  
125 and offenses for which the applicant has received a pardon or order of nondisclosure shall not  
126 constitute grounds for denial.

127 **Sec. 19-7. Fingerprints and photographs.**

128 At the time of making application for a license under this chapter, the applicant shall  
129 submit to be fingerprinted and photographed by the city marshal. Fingerprints and photographs  
130 collected under this section shall be retained by the city marshal for the duration of the license  
131 period plus one (1) year, after which they shall be destroyed.

132 **Sec. 19-8. Registration fee.**

133 (a) Each applicant for a commercial solicitor license shall pay a nonrefundable  
134 registration fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) at the time of application. No application shall  
135 be considered complete until the registration fee has been received.

136 (b) The registration fee shall be deposited in the general fund of the City.

137 (c) In the event a license is denied, the registration fee shall not be refunded.

138 **Sec. 19-9. Bond requirement.**





206 (a) **Commercial solicitors.** It shall be unlawful for any commercial solicitor to solicit,  
207 sell, or take orders at any residence that displays a no solicitation sign, or at any residence whose  
208 address appears on the no solicitation registry established under Section 19-15.

209 (b) **Canvassers.** It shall be unlawful for any canvasser to approach, knock, or ring the  
210 doorbell at any residence that displays a no solicitation sign. Canvassers shall not be required to  
211 consult the no solicitation registry but shall comply with all posted no solicitation signs.

212 (c) **Presumption.** A no solicitation sign posted at or near the entrance to a residence shall  
213 constitute a presumptive revocation of any implied invitation to approach the residence for the  
214 purpose of commercial solicitation or canvassing.

215 **Sec. 19-15. No solicitation registry.**

216 (a) **Registry established.** The city marshal shall establish and maintain a no solicitation  
217 registry of residential addresses within the city whose occupants have requested exemption from  
218 door-to-door commercial solicitation.

219 (b) **Registration.** Any resident of the City of Groves may register their residential  
220 address on the no solicitation registry by submitting a written or electronic request to the city  
221 marshal. Registration shall be effective within five (5) business days of receipt. A registration  
222 shall remain effective until the registrant requests removal or until the registrant ceases to reside  
223 at the registered address.

224 (c) **Distribution.** A current copy of the no solicitation registry shall be provided to each  
225 licensed commercial solicitor at the time of license issuance. Updated copies shall be made  
226 available upon request at the Groves Police Department.

227 (d) **Violation.** Solicitation at a registered address by a commercial solicitor who has been  
228 provided a copy of the registry shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

229 **Sec. 19-16. Penalties.**

230 (a) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class C  
231 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.  
232 Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

233 (b) In addition to the penalty prescribed in subsection (a), the city marshal may revoke  
234 the license of any commercial solicitor who is found to have violated any provision of this  
235 chapter. Before any license is revoked, the licensee shall be given written notice of the proposed  
236 revocation and the reasons therefor, and shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard before the  
237 city manager within ten (10) calendar days of the notice. The decision of the city manager on  
238 revocation shall be the final administrative decision of the City.

239 **Sec. 19-17. Severability.**

240 If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this chapter is for any  
241 reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall  
242 be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the  
243 validity of the remaining portions of this chapter.

244 **SECTION 2. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS**

245 All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed  
246 to the extent of such conflict.

247 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY**

248 If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason  
249 held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining  
250 portions of this ordinance.

251 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

252 This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval, and  
253 publication as required by the City Charter and the laws of the State of Texas.

254

255



\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, provide complete details on Page 2, including: offense, date, jurisdiction, disposition, and explanation of circumstances. (Per Sec. 19-6(b), only convictions that directly relate to the duties of a commercial solicitor may be considered. Traffic violations and Class C misdemeanors not involving dishonesty or violence are not grounds for denial.)

**SECTION F: LICENSE PERIOD**

Period applicant wishes to engage in commercial solicitation within the City:

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ (Maximum one year)

**SECTION G: IDENTIFICATION**

Two forms of government-issued identification are required, at least one bearing a photograph.

ID Type 1: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ID Type 2: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION H: APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

1. I have read and understand the provisions of Chapter 19 of the City of Groves Code of Ordinances.
2. All information provided in this application is true and correct.
3. I understand that I must carry my license on my person at all times while soliciting and display it upon request.
4. I understand that I may not solicit at any residence displaying a "No Soliciting" sign or listed on the City's No Solicitation Registry.
5. I understand that permitted hours of commercial solicitation are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (or 30 minutes after sunset, whichever is earlier).
6. I understand that providing false information on this application is grounds for denial or revocation of my license.
7. Issuance of this license does not constitute an endorsement of the vendor or the product by the City of Groves.
8. I understand that a nonrefundable registration fee of \$100.00 is required and must be paid at the time of application.

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00 (nonrefundable)** Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION I: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**Registration Fee Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Received By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Application Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Fingerprints Taken: \_\_\_ Yes

Photograph Taken: \_\_\_ Yes

Bond Reviewed: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ N/A

Bond Sufficient: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ N/A

ID Copies Made:  Yes

Criminal History Check:  Clear  See Notes

**LICENSE DECISION**

APPROVED  DENIED (attach written reasons)

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

License Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

No Solicitation Registry Provided:  Yes

City Marshal / Designee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*City of Groves | Commercial Solicitor License Application | Chapter 19, Code of Ordinances | Revised 2/2026*

## CRIMINAL HISTORY DETAILS

(Complete this page only if you answered "Yes" to Section E on Page 1)

### Offense 1

Offense: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

Court / Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition (sentence, probation, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Circumstances:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Offense 2

Offense: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

Court / Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition (sentence, probation, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Circumstances:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Offense 3

Offense: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

Court / Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition (sentence, probation, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Circumstances:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### NOTICE REGARDING CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW

Pursuant to Chapter 19, Sec. 19-6(b), and in accordance with Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53, a criminal conviction does not automatically disqualify an applicant. The City Marshal will consider: (1) the nature and seriousness of the offense; (2) the relationship of the offense to the duties of a commercial solicitor; (3) the extent to which the license might offer an opportunity to engage in further criminal activity of the same type; (4) the time elapsed since the conviction; and (5) evidence of rehabilitation or mitigating factors.

Traffic violations, Class C misdemeanors not involving dishonesty or violence, and offenses for which the applicant has received a pardon or order of nondisclosure shall not constitute grounds for denial.

# CITY OF GROVES

## COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR LICENSE

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

*Chapter 19, Code of Ordinances*

#### **Who Needs a License?**

A **Commercial Solicitor License** is required for any person who goes door to door within the City of Groves to sell, offer for sale, or take orders for goods, wares, merchandise, or services in exchange for payment.

#### **Who Does NOT Need a License?**

The following persons are exempt from the licensing requirement:

- **Canvassers** — persons distributing political, religious, or charitable literature, or enlisting support for a cause, religion, philosophy, or political candidate. (Canvassers must still honor "No Soliciting" signs and may not canvass before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.)
- **Charitable fundraisers** — persons selling door to door exclusively for the benefit of a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization, including youth organizations, scouting organizations (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts), school-affiliated groups, booster clubs, and parent-teacher associations. (Must identify organization and a responsible officer upon request. Must still honor hours of operation and "No Soliciting" signs.)
- **State-licensed professionals** — persons holding a valid license under the Texas Occupations Code (including Chapters 1702, 1801, and 1803) who present proof of current state licensure.
- **Commercial travelers** selling to dealers in the usual course of business.
- **Farm and dairy product vendors** (except retail ice cream sales).
- **Persons selling under authority and by order of law.**

#### **How to Apply**

**Step 1.** Complete the Commercial Solicitor License Application form.

**Step 2.** Determine if a bond is required (see table below).

**Step 3.** Gather required documents:

- Completed application form
- Two (2) forms of government-issued identification (at least one with photo)
- Surety bond, if required (one bond per company)
- Proof of state bond, if claiming state-bonded exemption

**Step 4.** Prepare the **\$100.00 nonrefundable registration fee (cash, check, or money order).**

**Step 5.** Submit all materials to the Groves Police Department.

#### **Do you take advance payment before delivery?**

Yes — you accept payment or deposits before final delivery

No — goods are exchanged at time of payment (immediate delivery)

#### **Bond Required?**

**Yes — \$2,000 surety bond required, payable to City of Groves**

No bond required

You hold a valid state bond under Tex. Occ. Code Ch. 1702, 1801, or 1803. No City bond required — bring proof of state bond

**Applications are accepted during all regular business hours, Monday through Friday.**

### **What Happens After You Apply**

1. The Police Department will make copies of your identification documents.
2. You will be fingerprinted and photographed by the City Marshal or designee.
3. If a bond is required, the City Marshal will review it for sufficiency.
4. **The City will approve or deny your application within five (5) business days of receiving a complete application with all required documents.**
5. **If the City does not act within five (5) business days, your license is automatically issued.**
6. If denied, you will receive a written statement of the specific reasons for denial.

### **If Your Application Is Denied**

- You will receive written notice with the specific reason(s) for denial.
- You may appeal the denial to the City Manager by filing a written notice of appeal within ten (10) calendar days of the denial.
- The City Manager will render a written decision within five (5) business days of your appeal.
- You may seek judicial review in a court of competent jurisdiction after a final denial.

### **Rules for Licensed Commercial Solicitors**

- There is no fee to obtain a Commercial Solicitor License.
- **Permitted hours of operation: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (or 30 minutes after sunset, whichever is earlier). Solicitation outside these hours is prohibited.**
- You must carry your license on your person at all times while soliciting and display it upon request.
- You may NOT solicit at any residence that displays a "No Soliciting," "No Solicitors," "No Peddlers," "No Trespassing," or similar sign.
- You may NOT solicit at any address listed on the City's No Solicitation Registry. A copy of the current registry will be provided to you at the time your license is issued.
- Your license is valid for the period stated on its face, up to a maximum of one (1) year.
- Violations of Chapter 19 constitute a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00, and may result in revocation of your license.

### **Rules for Charitable Fundraisers (No License Required)**

**Persons selling door to door for charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations (including youth groups, scouts, school groups, and booster clubs) do not need a license, bond, registration fee, or application. However, charitable fundraisers must: • Observe hours of operation: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (or 30 minutes after sunset, whichever is earlier). • Honor all posted "No Soliciting" or similar signs. • Upon request by law enforcement, identify the organization and provide the name and contact information of a responsible officer.**

### **Rules for Canvassers (No License Required)**

Canvassers (persons distributing political, religious, or charitable materials, or enlisting support for a cause) do **not** need a license, bond, or to submit an application. However, canvassers must:

- **Observe hours of operation: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**
- **Honor all posted "No Soliciting" or similar signs.**

### **No Solicitation Registry — For Residents**

City of Groves residents may register their home address on the **No Solicitation Registry** to opt out of door-to-door commercial solicitation. To register, submit a written or electronic request to the City Marshal at the Groves Police Department. Registration is free and remains in effect until you request removal or move from the registered address.

### **Contact**

**Groves Police Department**

Phone: 409-962-0244

*City of Groves | Commercial Solicitor License Application Procedures | Chapter 19, Code of Ordinances | Revised 2/2026*