



# *City of Greensboro* **Business Permit**





# Privilege License Background

- Business Privilege License tax (collected since the 1960's under authority of G.S. 160A-211) is repealed, effective July 1, 2015
- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Session Law 2014-3; House Bill 1050 was approved to eliminate the authority for a city to levy a privilege license tax on businesses, except those specific to alcohol sales or taxi cabs, which the City will continue to administer
- Statutory authority still exists allowing municipalities to regulate most businesses and trades: G.S. 160A-194
- Key business data is gathered in the current Privilege License system that is also used in coordination with other City departments and divisions, such as Zoning, Building Inspections, Fire, Police, as well as the Guilford County Health Dept. in order to promote public health, safety, and welfare



# Current/Potential Uses

Department	Use of Business Data
<b>Economic Development &amp; Business Support</b>	Updates Customer Relationship Mgmt database
	Women/Minority stats
	Council Districts
<b>Fire</b>	Locate contact information
	Find new businesses that need inspections
<b>GPD-Vice</b>	Assist with investigations
	Assist with ABC permits
	Background info useful in link analysis for network of narcotics trade
	Knowledge of nightclub operators, masseuses, & locations of certain business types
<b>GPD-Alarm Coordinator</b>	Cross references while setting up new alarm accounts for businesses
	Verifies business names and mailing addresses for existing accounts & returned mail
<b>GPD-Guilford Metro 911</b>	Emergency contact information in case of fire/robbery/break-in, etc
<b>Planning/Zoning</b>	Provides addresses, operating status, historical info to assist with spacing requirements, zoning districts, & grandfathered status
<b>E&amp;I/Development Services (BI)</b>	BI finds out about locations that need building inspections when businesses apply for a PL
<b>Legal</b>	Contact/owner info & current/prior business activity for cases they are working on



# Options to Regulate & Track Businesses

- *Business Permit*
  - Standardized system for all businesses to register
  - Data housed in one central location
  - Data renewed & updated annually
  - Regulate & track businesses in specialty categories( i.e. massage, solicitors, S.O.B. etc)
- *No Business Permit or Registration Program*
  - Data would need to be obtained from various departments
  - Data not renewed & updated annually, only if inquired upon by specific city department
  - Planning, Building, & Fire would need to frequently survey city in order to identify new businesses
  - Limits ability to track grandfathered status utilized by Zoning



# Recommendation- Business Permit

- All businesses currently required to have a privilege license will be permitted per location, including non-profits
  - Continue current practice-non-profits will not pay a fee and religious organizations would continue to be exempt
    - Unless performing business activities like daycares and mobile food events
- Simple, streamlined process, allowing majority to apply, renew and pay online (excludes specialty businesses)
  - City to use current PL data for a smooth transition
  - FY 15-16 will be used to inform and educate businesses, with no late fee or penalty
- Recommending a base permit fee of \$15 for administrative cost recovery
  - Currently 3 FT benefitted positions process 13,600 privilege licenses annually
- Additional cost for services associated with issuing a permit will be the responsibility of the applicant (background checks)



# Business Compliance

- Refusal/Revocation of Business Permit will be similar to the current Privilege License process
- Business can appeal permit decisions within 7 days and request hearing
- Delinquent businesses would be subject to a late fee of \$10, a flat rate compared to current 5-tier penalty structure
- Mandatory compliance would be subject to the City first obtaining a civil court injunction





# Municipal Review Board

- Establish to hear appeals associated with Business Permits, Night Club Security Ordinance, Massage
- Currently appeals are reviewed by the Board of Adjustment
- Enabling legislation from the State of NC recommended
- Quasi-judicial board



# Next Steps

- Revisions & additions to the Code of Ordinances
  - April 21<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting
- State approval of municipal review board
- Completion of internal system modifications
- Informing the public via press release, auto-dialer calls, emails, & mailed letters