

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 13, 2017

TO: CHAIRWOMAN MARY LYMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: KARL MORITZ, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
ZONING

SUBJECT: MODIFICATIONS TO THE DRAFT LANGUAGE OF THE TEXT
AMENDMENT FOR TATTOO PARLORS

ISSUE: Language within the drafted text amendment on tattoo parlors to be considered by the Planning Commission at their June 14th, 2017 requires additional clarification and modification.

RECOMMENDATION: The recommendation is to remove language referencing the types of businesses that require state licensing from the introductory paragraph of the definition of personal services establishments, and to strike the removal of the term “parlors” in order to retain the term “palm reading parlors”.

BACKGROUND: City Council requested the initiation of a text amendment to remove tattoo parlors from the definition of amusement enterprise and reclassify it within the definition of personal services establishments. Recommended text language was drafted by staff that included references to state licensing requirements for this use and other uses defined as personal service establishments in addition to removing the term “parlor” after the description of palm readers. This language was finalized, published, and forwarded to Planning Commission for their review at the public hearing.

DISCUSSION: Upon additional consideration, staff recommends to remove references to state licensing requirements in order to avoid the possibility of exceeding the scope of the initiated text amendment in order to avoid the possibility of confusion in the application of this regulation because many types of personal services do not require state licensing. In addition staff recommends retaining the term “parlors” for “palm reading,” as that term was unintentionally stricken in the proposed text.

Attachment 1 provides the revised proposed text. Staff continues to recommend approval of this amendment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1

Attachment #1
PROPOSED ZONING TEXT CHANGES

Note: New text is underlined;
~~Deleted text is shown with a strikethrough~~

2-111 - Amusement enterprise.

A use devoted to entertainment, such as theaters, bowling alleys, skating rinks, pool and billiard halls, miniature golf courses, dance halls, palm reading ~~or tattoo~~ parlors, amusement arcades, bingo halls and similar uses.

2-183 - Personal service establishment.

A store or shop providing personal, financial, technical or repair services, assistance or advice to individual consumers ~~that may require certification or licensure by one or more agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia~~, including but not limited to:

Arts and crafts studios or stores;

Appliance repair and rental;

Banks, savings and loans, and credit unions;

Bicycle repair;

Barbershops and beauty shops;

Contractors' offices, without accessory storage;

Dressmakers and tailors;

Dry-cleaning and laundry pickup stations;

Laundromat;

Locksmiths;

Musical instrument repair;

Optical center;

Pawnshops;

Private school, academic, with a maximum of 20 students on the premises at any one time;

Professional photographer's studios;

Shoe repair;

Furniture upholstering shops;

Watch repair;

Printing and photocopy service;

Tattoo parlors;

Personal service establishments do not include, as either a primary or accessory use, automobile oriented uses; the sale, rental, storage, service or repair of any motor vehicles, including automobiles, trucks, buses, trailers, recreational vehicles and motorcycles; or any use separately listed in a zone.

Hello Madame/Mr. Chair, my name is James Marlowe and I reside in Arlington, VA. I am here today to speak in favor of the text amendment and give my full support for the proposed change. I was a former business owner in the City. I sat in this room nearly two years ago, awaiting the outcome of introducing the first tattoo studio to Old Town Alexandria. The City's approval gave me an opportunity to engage with residents, business owners, and welcomed an inclusive circle of patrons to the community and expand my reach beyond our established clientele of Marlowe Ink in Old Town Fairfax. King Street Studios Tattoo introduced my love and passion for tattooing to a visually diverse community with a discerning eye for art and culture. The unfortunate circumstances which lead to my departure has not deterred me from wanting to pursue another location and renew my commitment to setting roots in Alexandria. The outpouring of support and words of encouragement we received from Alexandria locals and business owners in the past few months, has softened the blow since closing our doors two weeks ago. On behalf of my tattoo artists, novice and seasoned collectors of body art, and the future growth and refinement of professional tattooing, thank you for time and consideration. I would also like to extend a personal appreciation to Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman Paul Smedberg for proposing the text amendment that will allow me to share the economic and cultural benefits of a growing artform.