

AN ORDINANCE

NO. _____

An ordinance amending Sections 13.1.1, 4.2.18, 2.5.24, 3.2.6, 3.2.63, and 10.11.8 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia:

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 13 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising the definition of *Personal services* to add the following two sentences to the end of the definition:

“This use category also includes the provision of microblading, permanent (or semi-permanent) makeup, and other cosmetic pigmentation services when performed in compliance with all applicable state and local health regulations. Such cosmetic tattooing services may be offered as a primary or accessory service within a personal-services establishment.”

SECTION 2.

Chapter 13 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising the definition of *Retail Sales, General* to remove liquor and package sales and read as follows:

“*Retail sales, general* means establishments engaged in retail sales and rental of products, including antique stores; apparel for women and men; appliance sales; auto parts store; bicycle sales; book and stationary stores; business machines and office equipment sales; camera and photography sales and service; candy, nuts, and confectionery sales; drug stores and pharmacies; fabric stores; floor covering sales; farm and garden supply stores; food stores, excluding convenience stores; furniture stores, gift, novelty, and souvenir stores; hobby toy, and game shops; home furnishings, and equipment; hardware sales; household goods; jewelry stores; lawn and garden sales, including lawnmowers; leather goods and luggage stores; marine equipment sales, excluding boats and personal water craft; music and musical instrument sales; newsstand and cigar sales; office supplies; optical goods; pet shops; shoe stores; specialty merchandise, including artist's supplies, orthopedic and artificial limbs, sporting goods; tobacco shops; and similar uses as may be determined by the Director.”

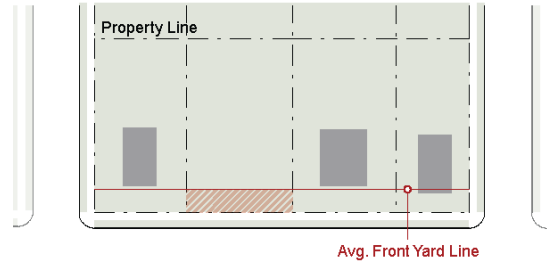
SECTION 3.

Chapter 4 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising Section 4.2.18 **Required Yards** by adding a new Paragraph 8 *Front Yard Standards* to read as follows:

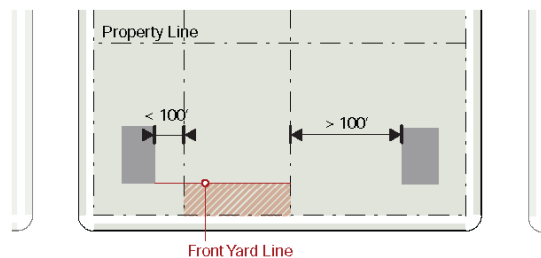
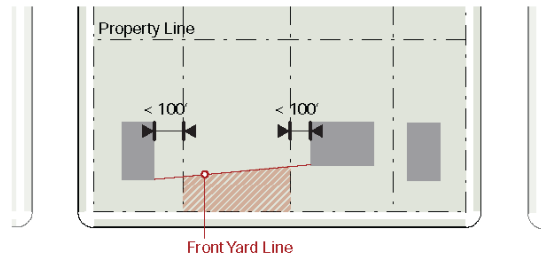
F. Front Yard Standards

1. Average Front Yard

- a. Where 40% or more of the frontage on the same side of a street between two intersecting streets is developed with buildings that have (with a variation of 5 feet or less) a front yard greater or lesser in depth than required, new buildings shall not be erected closer to the street than the average front yard established by the existing buildings.



- b. Where 40% or more of the frontage on one side of a street between two intersecting streets is developed that do not have a front yard as described above, then:
- i. Where a building is to be erected on a parcel of land that is within 100 feet of existing buildings on both sides, the minimum front yard shall be a line drawn between the two closest front corners of the adjacent buildings; or
 - ii. Where a building is to be erected on a parcel of land that is within 100 feet of an existing building on one side only, the building may be erected as close to the street as the existing adjacent building.



SECTION 4.

Chapter 2 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising Section 2.5.24.C.6.(B) to establish a height minimum for shingle signs in the 2nd Avenue Overlay District:

“(B) *Shingle Signs*. A sign that is suspended, parallel, or perpendicular from a building wall, roof, façade, canopy, marquee, or porch by means of brackets, hooks, or chains and the like. The sign area shall be no more than 24 inches in height and 36 inches in length. The sign area can be both front and back. Said sign shall be a minimum of 7 feet from the ground for pedestrian clearance.”

SECTION 5.

Chapter 3 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising Sections 3.2.6 and 3.2.7 by adding a new subsection C regarding repair work to each code section to read as follows:

Section 3.2.6. Auto/Truck Repair, Major.

“A major auto repair facility shall comply with the standards listed below.

- A. *Bay or Garage Doors.* Bay or garage doors shall comply with the requirements of Section 4.2.5.
- B. *Fencing, Walls and Hedges.* An opaque wall, consistent with the requirements of Section 4.2.14 shall be provided for all repair services that store wrecked, junked, abandoned or inoperative vehicles. Fencing consistent with the requirements of Section 4.2.14 shall be provided if an opaque wall is not required.

Wall or fencing shall completely screen all junk or inoperable vehicles from public view.

- C. The outdoor storage of wrecked, junked, abandoned, or inoperative vehicles shall be incidental and subordinate to the primary use of the property as an auto/truck repair facility. Vehicles stored on-site shall be actively undergoing repair, diagnostics, or awaiting pickup by the owner.

- D. Determination of Use.

A property shall be deemed to be operating as a vehicle storage yard or junkyard, rather than a repair facility, if any of the following conditions are met:

1. Vehicles are stored for longer than 30 days without documented repair activity;
2. Vehicles are dismantled or used primarily for parts;
3. The accumulation, condition, or storage pattern of vehicles indicates that the principal use of the property is storage rather than repair.”

And

“Section 3.2.7. Auto/Truck Repair, Minor.

A minor auto repair facility shall comply with the standards listed below.

- A. *Bay or Garage Doors.* Bay or garage doors shall comply with the requirements of Section 4.2.5.
- B. *Fencing, Walls and Hedges.* An opaque wall, consistent with the requirements of Section 4.2.14 shall be provided for all repair services that store wrecked, junked, abandoned or inoperative vehicles. Fencing consistent with the requirements of Section 4.2.14 shall be provided if an opaque wall is not required.
- C. *Repair Work.* All repair work shall occur within an enclosed structure.”

SECTION 6.

Section 3.2.63. of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby repealed and replaced with a new Section 3.2.63. to read as follows:

“Section 3.2.63. Temporary Use or Special Event.

A temporary use or special event shall comply with the standards listed below.

Review.

- A. A temporary use or special event is a short-term activity or operation occurring on private property that is not part of the permanent or primary use of the site and that is intended to operate for a limited duration. Temporary uses or special events may include, but are not limited to, outdoor sales, festivals, markets, exhibits, seasonal merchandise sales, gatherings, performances, or public-serving activities of any duration. Unless otherwise provided herein, the City Manager or designee may approve an application for a temporary use or special event conducted on private property.

Temporary uses or special events proposed on public property, including but not limited to public streets, parks, rights-of-way, and City-owned facilities, shall require review and approval by the appropriate City Department. Such events may also require approval by the City Council and coordination with the Police Department or other public safety agencies, as determined necessary by the City.

- B. *Location.* A temporary use or special event shall be located as provided below:
1. Properties possessing a non-residential zoning district designation; or
 2. Properties within residential zoning districts or residential portions of PUDs that are public-serving sites such as public or private schools, places of worship public parks or other public property.
- C. *Duration.* An event shall not exceed seven consecutive days. The City Manager may authorize one administrative time extension of up to three days. The Council shall approve any event more than ten days in length.
1. *Exemption.* The following events shall be exempt from the ten-day limitation.
 - (A) *Community Fairs.* Community fairs shall not exceed 14 days of operation and being open to the public, excluding time to set up or dismantle the fair.
 - (B) *Religious Meetings.* Religious meetings of a temporary nature shall not exceed 14 days in length, excluding time to set up or dismantle the meeting facilities.
 - (C) *Seasonal Holiday Décor Sales.* Seasonal holiday décor sales, including but not limited to Christmas trees, pumpkins, and similar holiday-related items, shall be permitted from September 1 through December 31 each year. During all other times of the year, such seasonal holiday décor sales may be permitted for periods not exceeding 14 consecutive days at a time.
 - (D) *Fireworks Sales.* Fireworks sales shall be permitted for the following:
 - 1) *Independence Day.* Fireworks sales shall be permitted thirty (30) days prior to July 4.
 - 2) *New Year's Day.* Fireworks sales shall be permitted thirty (30) days prior to January 1.
- D. *Number per Year.* Not more than three temporary events in any calendar year shall be held in the same location, unless otherwise approved by the Council following a recommendation by the City Manager.

1. Recurring Farmers Markets

A recurring farmers market held on weekends at a church, school, or other similar qualifying property shall be considered one temporary special event for the purposes of annual event limits, provided that the farmers market operates under a single seasonal

authorization and maintains consistent hours, layout, and participating vendors throughout its operating season. Individual weekend market days shall not be counted as separate temporary events.

- E. *Compliance.* If a violation occurs at an event permitted by the City, the City Manager may deny permits to the operator for similar temporary events for a period of not more than 18 months.
- F. *Review.* The City Manager may require review of a temporary event permit by members of City staff.
- G. *General Standards.* Temporary uses or special events shall comply with the standards listed below.
 - 1. *Access.* Vehicular access from a collector or arterial roadway shall be provided. Access from a local street is prohibited, unless approved by City Manager as the only feasible access available to a site.
 - 2. *Setbacks.* The minimum setbacks indicated in Table 3.2.9 shall apply to all parking areas, mobile homes or similar temporary dwellings or offices, tents, mechanical devices, carnival rides, and animals associated with such activities.

Table 3.2.9.

Minimum Setbacks for Special Events

Setback ¹	Residential Zoning District	Nonresidential Zoning District
Front	25 feet	25 feet
Side	50 feet	25 feet
Side Corner	35 feet	20 feet
Rear	200 feet	25 feet
Note and Additional Standards. ¹ Setback to be measured from activity or structure to the nearest residential property line if event located within a residential zoning district.		

- 3. *Traffic Control.* Use of city police or acceptable alternative to direct and control traffic may be required.
- 4. *Sanitation and Public Health.* Plans for sanitation and public health protection including temporary bathroom facilities, inspection of food facilities, drainage, and garbage and litter control, shall be approved by the City Manager.
- 5. *Application Requirements.* Applications for a temporary use or special event authorization shall be submitted to the Director of Inspections and Codes.
 - (A) *Submittal.* Applications shall be filed at least 15 days prior to the opening day of the use or event.
 - (B) *Contents.* The application shall contain such information as required by the Director of Inspections and Codes and shall include the items listed below.
 - (1) *Authority.* Evidence the property owner authorizes the use of the site for a special event.
 - (2) *Site Plan.* A general site plan for the event, including property boundaries, road access, location of tents or other structures, location of rides, location of parking,

location of temporary dwellings or offices, and proposed setbacks of activities, tents, booths, etc., from adjacent properties.

- (3) *Statement of Use.* A general statement of use, including but not limited to sponsor, planned activities, duration of event, hours of operation, anticipated attendance, temporary lighting to be provided onsite, security, utilities, use of generators, and other information that may be required by the Director.
 - (4) *Signs.* A general sign plan, including proposed number, size, location, and dates of installation and removal of all signs associated with the event.
 - (5) *Other Materials.* Other materials and documentation as may be required by the Director.
6. *Surety.* The City Manager or designee may require the operator of an event to post a cash surety, or other form of security, to provide funds to cleanup or otherwise mitigate a site following a temporary event. The Manager shall approve the amount of surety.
 7. *Insurance.* The City Manager or designee may require the operator of an event to provide evidence of a general liability policy in an amount of at least \$1,000,000, with the City named as an additional insured. The City may require proof of additional insurance.
 8. *Authorization.* The City Manager or designee shall issue written approval for a temporary use or special event, including any conditions or restrictions placed on the proposed activities. Conditions or restrictions may affect or include planned activities, duration of event, hours of operation, temporary lighting to be provided onsite, security, traffic control, garbage and litter control, bathroom facilities, utilities, security, and use of generators.”

SECTION 7.

Chapter 10 of the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended by revising amending Sections 10.11.8.G.8 (C) and (D) and 10.11.8.G.9(B) regarding the tabling of cases for BZA to read as follows:

Section 10.11.8.G.8.(C) *Effect of Tie Vote.*

(C) *Effect of Tie Vote.* A tie vote on a motion for approval of an appeal shall be deemed a denial of the appeal. A tie vote on any other motion shall be deemed to be no action, and another motion would be in order; however, if the appeal has previously been tabled once by the Board, a tie vote or no action at the subsequent meeting shall result in the appeal being automatically denied.

And

Section 10.11.8.G.8.(D) *Failure to Act.*

(D) *Failure to Act.* If no action is taken on an appeal, it shall be considered tabled and action deferred to the next regular meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals. An appeal may be tabled only once. If the appeal has previously been tabled and the Board fails to take action at the next regular meeting, the appeal shall be automatically denied.

And

Section 10.11.8.G.9. Board of Zoning Appeals Actions.

9. *Board of Zoning Appeals Actions.* In taking action on an appeal, the Board of Zoning Appeals may:

(A) Approve, approve with changes, approve with conditions, or deny the request; or

(B) Table the appeal for consideration at its next scheduled meeting; provided, however, that an appeal may be tabled only once. If the appeal has been previously tabled and the Board encounters a tie vote or takes no action at the next regular meeting, the appeal shall be automatically denied.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 12th day of May 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____
Councilor Anker voting _____
Councilor Chambers voting _____
Councilor Cogle voting _____
Councilor Crabb voting _____
Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor Hickey voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor