

AN ORDINANCE
NO. _____

An ordinance amending Article I of Chapter 4 of the Columbus Code to insert a new code section which defines nonprofit community handmade and artisan events sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation; to clarify applicable permit requirements; to provide for a fee waiver; and for other lawful purposes.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Article I of Chapter 4 of the Columbus Code is amended to add a new Section 4-1.2 to read as follows:

“Sec. 4-1.2. Nonprofit Community Handmade & Artisan Event.

(a) A non-profit community handmade and artisan event shall meet all of the following criteria:

1. The event is organized by a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;
2. The event is open to the public without an admission fee;
3. Vendors primarily offer handmade, artisan, or artist-produced goods; and
4. The event is intended for community, cultural, educational, or arts-related purposes.
5. The event is held in a City park or other recreational facility under the administration of the Department of Parks and Recreation (“the Department”).

(b) Permit and Operational Requirements:

Events qualifying under this classification shall remain subject to all applicable permit, insurance, sanitation, and operational requirements established by the Department, and the event organizer shall be solely responsible for post-event cleanup and restoration of the park area to its prior condition, including removal of all trash, equipment, signage, and materials associated with the event, and shall comply with all sanitation and waste disposal requirements as determined by the Department. Any event organizer who fails to meet this requirement shall reimburse the Department for the cost of post event clean-up and restoration, and if the organization fails to do so, it will not be entitled to the fee waiver provided by paragraph (c) below for any subsequent event until all outstanding costs billed by the Department have been paid.

(c) Vendor Fees:

No per-vendor fee shall be assessed by the Department for events qualifying under this code section. Vendor fees collected by the nonprofit organizer may be retained by the nonprofit for event-related expenses, including but not limited to insurance, marketing, equipment, and administrative costs.

(d) Implementation:

The Department shall update relevant fee schedules, applications, and administrative procedures consistent with this ordinance upon its effective date.”

SECTION 2.

This ordinance shall take effect upon signing by the Mayor and publication by the Clerk.

SECTION 3.

All ordinances in conflict with this ordinance shall be repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 10th day of March 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