



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Device Permits

DISCUSSION:

Staff would like to have a conversation with the Council about Device Permits, specifically whether they should be allowed or consistently denied.

For reference, a Device Permit refers to a Device Retailer Permit, which took effect on January 1, 2025. This is for businesses selling “devices” made wholly or partially of glass or metal that are designed for inhaling tobacco, hemp, or other plant materials. To legally display these devices, the retailer must ensure that the devices are not visible to anyone under 21 years of age and that individuals under 21 are not permitted to enter the area where these devices are displayed and sold. The Council recently voted to deny two renewals due to non-compliance with the law.

Several cities in Iowa have opted not to allow these devices, and as a result, they are not issuing permits. Manchester and Carroll have also declared they will not permit these devices.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.