



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2026

PRESENTER: Jerry Jones, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Ordinance Adding Chapter 5.60 Relating to Charitable Car Washes to Title 5 of the Kerman Municipal Code (JJ)

RECOMMENDATION: Council adopt an Ordinance Adding Chapter 5.60 Relating to Charitable Car Washes to Title 5 of the Kerman Municipal Code.

DISCUSSION:

At the November 12, 2025, City Council meeting, Council requested a future agenda item to discuss the number of car wash fundraisers occurring in Kerman. Over the past year, several organized car washes have occurred on private property along the City's major business corridors, including Whitesbridge Road and Madera Avenue. Typically held on Saturdays and Sundays, and usually affiliated with a group's fundraising, many have occurred without City notification or permits. While, noble in the desire to do work to raise funds, it is unknown if all the car washes raise money for charitable, civic, or youth groups, or if some may be for private gain.

On January 28, 2026, City Council was presented with the City's regulations and permitting requirements for charitable car washes for discussion and direction to Staff. Historically, the City has addressed car wash fundraisers pursuant to the charitable solicitations provisions in Chapter 5.24 of the Kerman Municipal Code (KMC). Without express regulations for car wash fundraisers, Staff have made every effort to regulate them under Chapter 5.24. Staff notes that the authority to issue permits for charitable solicitations must be granted by the City Council (KMC 5.24.020). Based on the lack of regulations and permitting requirements for charitable car washes within the KMC, Council directed Staff to prepare and bring back an ordinance related to charitable car washes for Council's consideration.

On April 8, 2026, City Council was presented with a draft ordinance for introduction. After public comment and discussion amongst Council, Council approved the introduction of the ordinance with two (2) modifications: 1) Car washes held by those other than a charitable organization are to be limited to no more than one (1) per year, per family; and 2) Additional language be added regarding enforcement of violations. Staff have made the requested modifications to the ordinance. Some of the key regulations included in the ordinance are as follows:

1. Limitation on Number
 - a. No more than three (3) per month and twelve (12) per year.
 - b. No more than three (3) per charitable organization per year.

- c. Only one permit per family per year shall be issued for a family residing in Kerman who is in need of funds to assist with unexpected expenses that create hardship per year
 - d. No more than four (4) per location per year.
2. Allowable Locations
- a. Property zoned for commercial uses.
 - b. May not be conducted in residential zone districts, except at religious or educational institutions.
 - c. May not be conducted within 300 feet of a permitted commercial car wash.
3. Application for Permit
- a. Must be filed at least five (5) business days prior to car wash.
 - b. A \$20.00 application fee will be collected. Fee will be refunded if the applicant reports it's earnings within thirty (30) days.
 - c. Must provide written authorization from the property owner or lessee allowing the car wash.
 - d. Proof of charitable purpose.
4. Operations
- a. May only occur between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
 - b. May only be conducted for the one-day period specified on the permit.
 - c. Shall not violate any City requirements regarding urban runoff water quality.
 - d. Must limit runoff through the use of a nozzle on each hose or other means.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The adoption of this ordinance is exempt from further CEQA review under the common sense exemption (Section 15061(b)(3)), as there is not a reasonable possibility that the adoption of this ordinance may have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Proposed Ordinance