

## ORDINANCE 682-AC

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDORS PARTICIPATING IN APPROVED COMMUNITY EVENTS

**WHEREAS**, the City of Needles ("City") regulates businesses operating within the City through the business licensing provisions contained in Chapter 12 of the Needles Municipal Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the City regularly hosts and permits community events including festivals, fairs, swap meets, farmers markets, Route 66 events, nonprofit events, and similar temporary gatherings involving vendors and public attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has reviewed business licensing requirements applicable to vendors participating in such events and desires to encourage participation in community events while maintaining appropriate public health, safety, and welfare protections; and

**WHEREAS**, the City seeks to amend certain provisions of Chapter 12 to clarify the regulation of special events and vendors participating in such events; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to waive certain City administrative processing fees for qualifying vendors participating in approved community events while maintaining applicable City licensing and regulatory requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Needles does ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals reflected above are true and correct and are incorporated by this reference herein as the cause and foundation for the action taken by and through this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2.** Amendment of Chapter 12. Chapter 12 of the Needles Municipal Code is amended as set forth in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 3.** Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its adoption by the City Council as provided by law.

**SECTION 4.** Severability. If any section or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, or contravened by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining sections and provisions of this Ordinance shall remain valid. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance, and each section and provision thereof, regardless of the fact that any one or more sections or provisions may be declared invalid, unconstitutional, or preempted.

**SECTION 5.** Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published and posted as required by law.

**INTRODUCED AND READ** for the first time and ordered posted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Jernigan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Clark, City Clerk

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Jernigan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Clark, City Clerk

Approved as to form: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## EXHIBIT "A"

### Amendment of Needles Municipal Code

#### CHAPTER 12 LICENSES

Section 12-1 is amended to add the following definitions:

12-1 Definitions:

"Approved Community Event" means a festival, fair, farmers market, swap meet, Route 66 event, nonprofit event, community celebration, or similar event conducted pursuant to a permit, authorization, or approval issued by the City.

"Vendor" means any person or business selling, displaying, offering for sale, or providing goods, merchandise, food, beverages, services, or other products at an Approved Community Event.

Section 12-5 is amended to add a new subsection (10) to read as follows:

12-5 Same-Exceptions:

(g) Waiver of Processing Fees for Vendors and Peddlers Participating in Approved Community Events.

(1) For the purpose of promoting local entrepreneurship, home-based businesses, and small business development within the City of Needles, any Vendor with annual gross receipts of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) or less shall be exempt from payment of the City's administrative processing fee otherwise required under this Chapter.

(2) Vendors claiming this exemption shall remain subject to all applicable provisions of this Code and shall obtain all permits, licenses, registrations, and approvals otherwise required by federal, state, county, and local law.

(3) The exemption provided herein shall apply only to City-imposed business administrative processing fees and shall not apply to any state-mandated fee, regulatory fee, permit fee, inspection fee, or other charge that the City is required by law to collect.

(4) If the City determines that an applicant has knowingly provided false information regarding eligibility for this exemption, the applicant shall immediately become liable for all unpaid fees and any penalties otherwise authorized by this Code.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall exempt any person from obtaining a business license as required by this Chapter.

(h) Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from complying with any of the regulations, measures or provisions of this chapter, except the payment of license fees; and any license exempt of fee under the provisions of this chapter is nontransferable.

(i) The provisions of this chapter shall not be deemed or construed to require the payment of a license fee by any person carrying on, or engaging in, the renting or letting of three or less residential units, to serve as a primary residence for a period in excess of thirty days, for purposes of dwelling, sleeping or lodging (i.e., apartments, boarding houses and other residential property rentals). (Ord. 215 N.S.; Ord. 32-AC; Ord. 440-AC; Ord. 555-AC.)

Section 12-29, formerly deleted by Ordinance No 88-AC is now replaced with 12-29 Temporary Event Vendor License:

Section 12-29 is amended to read as follows:

12-29 Temporary Event Vendor License. This section regulates individual vendors participating in temporary events. Nothing in this section shall eliminate or replace any permit, license, approval, or authorization otherwise required for the operation of an event, festival, carnival, circus, concert, exhibition, or other activity regulated by Sections 12-30 through 12-37 of this Chapter. The Temporary

Event Vendor License applies only to individual vendors participating in such events and shall not authorize the organization, promotion, or operation of the event itself.

(a) License Required. Any person selling, offering for sale, displaying, or providing goods, merchandise, food, beverages, crafts, services, or other products at a temporary event within the City shall obtain a Temporary Event Vendor License.

(b) Temporary Event Defined. For purposes of this section, a Temporary Event shall include any festival, fair, farmers market, swap meet, Route 66 event, nonprofit event, community celebration, or similar gathering conducted for a limited duration within the City.

(c) Duration. The license shall be valid only for the event, location, and dates specified in the application and shall automatically expire upon conclusion of the event.

(d) A person holding a current and valid City business license shall not be required to obtain a Temporary Event Vendor License for activities otherwise authorized under that business license.

(e) Issuance of a Temporary Event Vendor License shall not exempt any person from obtaining any permit, registration, certification, or approval otherwise required by federal, state, county, or local law.

Section 12-32 is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-32 Same—Concerts, Lectures, Theatricals, Etc.

For every person engaging in, conducting, managing or carrying on any place of amusement, entertainment or exhibition for the purpose of holding lectures, concerts, theatricals or any other form of entertainment or exhibition, except outdoor festivals as hereafter defined in section 12-35, for profit, and not otherwise paying a license under another provision of this Chapter, the amusement license fee shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per day.

Processing fees shall not apply to Vendors at Approved Community Events that are exempt pursuant to Section 12-5(g).

Section 12-56 is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-56 Food Catering Service:

For every person engaged in, managing, conducting, or carrying on the business of a food catering service, the license fee shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year or fraction thereof, provided it is not part of a regularly established business licensed under another section of this Code.

A Vendor participating in an Approved Community Event pursuant to Section 12-5(g) shall not be required to obtain a separate City food catering license solely for activities conducted within the Approved Community Event.

Section 12-68 is amended to add the following paragraph:

Section 12-68 Businesses and Professions Generally

For every person engaging in, managing, operating or carrying on the business of selling any goods, wares or merchandise, or conducting or carrying on any trade, occupation, calling or business, not otherwise specifically licensed by other sections of this chapter, the gross annual receipts of which are as follows, the respective license fees shall be as follows:

Less than \$15,000	\$30.00 per year
\$15,000 and less than \$30,000	\$35.00 per year
\$30,000 and less than \$45,000	\$50.00 per year
\$45,000 and less than \$60,000	\$60.00 per year

\$60,000 and less than \$75,000	\$70.00 per year
\$75,000 and less than \$90,000	\$85.00 per year
\$90,000 and less than \$105,000	\$105.00 per year
\$105,000 and less than \$120,000	\$120.00 per year
\$120,000 and less than \$150,000	\$140.00 per year
\$150,000 and less than \$225,000	\$165.00 per year
\$225,000 and less than \$300,000	\$195.00 per year
\$300,000 and less than \$375,000	\$230.00 per year
\$375,000 and less than \$450,000	\$280.00 per year
\$450,000 and less than \$600,000	\$340.00 per year
\$600,000 and less than \$750,000	\$450.00 per year
\$750,000 and over	\$500.00 per year

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, a business participating in an Approved Community Event, as defined in Section 12-1, and qualifying for the exemption set forth in Section 12-5(g) shall not be required to pay the administrative processing fee but shall remain responsible for any state, federal, county, or locally mandated fee required by law.