
THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2026-008

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,
AMENDING CHAPTER 5-1 (“*LICENSES AND REGULATIONS*”) OF TITLE 5
 (“*BUSINESS REGULATIONS*”) OF ITS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO BUSINESS
LICENSE REGULATIONS**

MAXINE REYNOLDS, Village President
NIKKI KITAKIS, Village Clerk

ROSEMARY CUNNINGHAM
GINA GLASER
ERNEST “BO” KAYE
PHILLIP MIDDLEBROOKS
DEBRA PISARZEWSKI
MARTIN PRATSCHER
Trustees

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-008

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,
AMENDING CHAPTER 5-1 (“*LICENSES AND REGULATIONS*”) OF TITLE 5
 (“*BUSINESS REGULATIONS*”) OF ITS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO BUSINESS
LICENSE REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs (the “*Home Rule Powers*”); and

WHEREAS, the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) may from time to time amend the text of the Thornton Municipal Code when it is determined to be in the best interests of the residents of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities desire to clarify license eligibility requirements, establish standards for denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses, provide procedures for notice and hearing, and improve enforcement of the Village Code; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities have determined that amending Chapter 5-1 (“*Licenses and Regulations*”) of Title 5 (“*Business Regulations*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is in the best interests of the Village and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois, by and through its Home Rule Powers as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. Chapter 5-1 (“*Licenses and Regulations*”) of Title 5 (“*Business Regulations*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language, to read as follows:

§ 5-1-1 License required.

A. Requirement. The provisions of this chapter in reference to licenses, permits and fees are declared to be of a regulatory nature, and it shall at all times be the duty of the Police Department and/or other enforcing officers designated to regularly inspect the business and/or places of businesses licensed to see that same are being conducted and operated so as to promote the public health, morals, safety and general welfare of the populace and the Village, and in accordance with requirements of this chapter. A license shall create no vested right or interest.

D. Separate License Per Location. Each fixed place of business within the Village shall require a separate license, irrespective of common ownership. Where multiple buildings are located on the same lot or parcel, are operated and managed by the same owner, and are classified within the same zoning use classification, and constitute a single business operation, only one license shall be required.

E. Commercial/Industrial Landlords. Any person or entity engaged in the business of renting or leasing a building, structure, or other property for commercial or industrial purposes within the Village shall obtain a license under this Chapter. The requirement of a landlord license shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any license required of a tenant or occupant conducting business on the premises.

§ 5-1-2 Requirements for Licensing.

A. Application. All licenses and permits shall be made in writing on forms to be provided by the Village, and shall be submitted to the Village Clerk unless express provision to the contrary is made. A new application shall be necessary to renew any license at its expiration.

1. Supporting Documentation. The application shall be accompanied by such documentation as the Village may reasonably require to verify the identity, eligibility, and responsibility of the applicant, including but not limited to:
 - a. a copy of a current government-issued photo identification for the applicant and any controlling person of the applicant;
 - b. authorization for the Village to conduct a background check of the applicant and any controlling person of the applicant; and
 - c. proof of insurance, where applicable, demonstrating coverage in

amounts and types required by Village ordinance or regulation.

B. Investigation. In case the ordinances require an investigation into the character of any applicant or into the premises to be used, the Village President shall cause such investigation to be made, and no license shall be granted unless approved by the President or, where required, the Village Board. No license or permit shall be issued unless all ordinance requirements have been complied with and unless approved by the Village President or, where required, the Village Board.

§ 5-1-2.5 Good Standing Required.

A. No initial license, renewal license, or amendment shall be granted if an investigation reveals that: (i) the applicant; (ii) any controlling person of the applicant; or (iii) any affiliate of the applicant owes any debt, fine, fee, assessment, penalty, or tax to the Village for which the period for payment has expired.

B. No license shall be issued or renewed if real estate taxes are delinquent on the premises where the licensed activity occurs and the applicant, controlling person, or affiliate owns or holds a beneficial interest in such premises.

C. For purposes of this section:

1. Controlling Person means any person owning five percent (5%) or more of the voting power or ownership interest in the applicant or entitled to receive ten percent (10%) or more of the income or profits.
2. Affiliate means any person or entity that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the applicant.
3. For purposes of this Section, "Village debt" includes any unpaid fine, fee, assessment, penalty, tax, or administrative adjudication judgment owed to the Village.

D. Any bond posted in connection with a license issued under this Chapter may be applied by the Village to satisfy outstanding debts owed to the Village related to the licensed activity.

E. This section shall apply in addition to any other eligibility requirements contained in this Code.

§ 5-1-9 Expiration; Terms; Late Renewal Fee.

A. Except where otherwise provided, all licenses or permits expire on December 31 of the year issued, unless such license or permit is issued for a period of time less than a year.

C. Any annual license not renewed on or before December 31 shall be subject to a late fee of \$75 per month, or fraction thereof, until renewed. Failure of the Village Clerk to provide

renewal notice shall not excuse non-renewal or payment of late fees.

§ 5-1-10 Suspension or Revocation.

~~Any license or permit, excepting permits for building construction, may be revoked by the officer authorized to issue such license or permit for any violation of the terms or conditions upon which the license was issued, or of any ordinance relating to the license or the subject matter thereof, and it shall be unlawful to continue to operate any business, trade or occupation, or continue to exercise any privilege or authority granted by any license or permit issued by the Village or any of its duly authorized officers or employees, after the period has expired for which any such license or permit has been revoked.~~

A. Any license issued under this Chapter may be suspended or revoked by the Village President in accordance with § 5-1-10.5, subject to appeal as provided herein.

B. No license shall be suspended, revoked, or conditioned without notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in §5-1-10.5.

§ 5-1-10.5 Notice; Hearing; Appeal.

A. Emergency Suspension.

1. When the conduct or operation of any business, whether licensed or unlicensed, constitutes a nuisance in fact or presents a clear and present danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, and requires immediate action prior to hearing, the Village President is authorized to summarily order the cessation of business operations and the closing of the premises for a period not to exceed ten (10) days.

2. Within eight (8) days after an emergency suspension is imposed, the President shall schedule a hearing pursuant to subsection (D) of this Section. The hearing shall occur within ten (10) days of the emergency suspension to determine whether the license shall be further suspended or revoked.

B. Grounds for Suspension or Revocation. After notice and hearing as provided herein, a license issued under this Chapter may be suspended for up to thirty (30) days, revoked, or conditioned upon corrective action for any of the following:

1. Fraud, misrepresentation, or false statement in the application for license;
2. Violation of any provision of this Code or applicable state law relating to the licensed business or premises;
3. Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor indicating inability to operate a lawful and safe business;
4. Failure to pay any fine, penalty, administrative adjudication judgment, fee, tax, or other Village debt when due;
5. Failure to maintain eligibility under § 5-1-2.5 (Good Standing);
6. Failure to comply with applicable zoning, building, fire, or health regulations;

7. Refusal to permit lawful inspection;
8. Issuance of the license in error;
9. Any other violation of Village ordinance, resolution, or regulation materially related to the licensed business or premises.

At or prior to the hearing, the parties may enter into a written compliance agreement establishing corrective actions or payment terms in lieu of suspension or revocation.

C. Effect of Revocation. Revocation shall not preclude prosecution or imposition of other penalties. No person or entity whose license has been revoked shall be eligible for a new license under this Chapter for a period of twelve (12) months.

D. Written notice of the hearing shall state the specific grounds for the proposed denial, suspension, or revocation and the time and place of the hearing. Notice shall be served by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the licensee's last known residence or business address as listed on the license application or most recently provided to the Village, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, or by personal service at least three (3) days prior to the hearing. If the licensee requests a continuance, any suspension in effect shall remain in effect until the continued hearing date.

The hearing shall be conducted by the Village President or a designee appointed by the President. The Village Attorney, or his or her designee, shall present the basis for the proposed action. The licensee shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to present evidence, and to cross-examine witnesses. The proceedings shall be audio recorded. The standard of proof shall be a preponderance of the evidence.

Within twenty (20) days after the conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer shall issue a written decision summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the determination. If a license is suspended or revoked, the Village may assess reasonable hearing costs, including court reporter fees and administrative expenses, against the licensee.

E. Any person aggrieved by the decision may appeal to the Village Board within ten (10) days of the written decision. The appeal shall be based upon the record of the hearing unless the Village Board, in its discretion, permits additional evidence. The decision of the Village Board shall be final and subject to judicial review pursuant to the Illinois Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.).

§ 5-1-12 Penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this title shall be fined not less than \$50, but not more than \$500 for each offense and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during which the violation continues. The imposition of any fine shall not preclude the Village from pursuing suspension, revocation, injunction, abatement, or other relief at law or in equity.

§ 5-1-13 Non-Interference.

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to modify, impair, supersede, or otherwise affect any franchise agreement, franchise ordinance, or specialized licensing or regulatory scheme contained in any other Chapter of this Code.

Section 3. All other provisions of the Code not expressly amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. The Public Works Director or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to install and maintain all necessary traffic control signs, pavement markings, and other devices required to implement this Ordinance.

Section 5. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

(Intentionally Left Blank)

ADOPTED by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton,
Cook County, Illinois this 16th day of March 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CUNNINGHAM				
GLASER				
KAYE				
MIDDLEBROOKS				
PISARZEWSKI				
PRATSCHER				
VILLAGE PRESIDENT REYNOLDS				
TOTAL				

APPROVED by the Village President of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois
on this 16th day of March 2026.

MAXINE REYNOLDS
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

NIKKI KITAKIS
VILLAGE CLERK