

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEORIA RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF VIDEO GAMING TERMINAL FEES BETWEEN OPERATORS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

WHEREAS, beginning in late 2019, a new and highly communicable type of Coronavirus, now commonly known as COVID-19, emerged and began to spread rapidly. Despite efforts to contain COVID-19, it continues to spread throughout Peoria and the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents an extraordinarily severe and unprecedented threat to the City of Peoria and it is necessary for the City Council to take immediate measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, restaurants and bars have suffered economic hardship as a result of being closed, limited to serving customers outdoors, or subjected to limitations on indoor customer capacity, due to social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, restaurants and bars currently pay 100% of the local video gaming terminal fee without contribution from video gaming terminal operators; and

WHEREAS, video gaming terminal operators split the cost of the State of Illinois' gaming terminal fee with the local restaurants and bars with the video gaming terminal operator paying 50% and the local establishment paying 50% of the state licensing fee; and

WHEREAS, video gaming terminal operators enjoy substantial economic benefit from the operation of video gaming terminals in local restaurants and bars; and

WHEREAS, if these local restaurants and bars continue to suffer losses and are forced to close, their workers will lose their employment thereby affecting their ability to feed and shelter their families; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the City's continues to act swiftly and effectively to help and support our residents and employees during this public health emergency caused by COVID-19, including supporting and providing relief for the suffering business community within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City enacted Ordinance No. 17,820 on January 12, 2021 extending the 2020 licensing year by two months, reducing fees by 50% and waiving minimum food and beverage sales for the 2020 license year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and declares that the immediate passage of this ordinance will provide additional relief for local establishments and is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION 1. **Recitals.** The recitals above shall be and are incorporated into this Section 1 as if fully restated herein.

SECTION 2. Article IV (Operation of Video Gaming Terminals) of Chapter 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) is hereby amended by deleting the following stricken words and adding the following underlined words.

Sec. 18-97. License fees.

The applicant for a license under this article shall pay the city treasurer, prior to filing the application, a fee of \$83.00 for each video gaming terminal per a pro-rated license year beginning January 1, 2019 and ending February 28, 2019. A fee of \$500.00 for each video gaming terminal per license year shall be paid to the city treasurer, and that amount shall be divided with \$250.00 paid by the video gaming terminal operator and \$250.00 paid by the video gaming terminal establishment, beginning March 1 and ending February 28, 2020, and annually thereafter. If the license is denied, the license fee shall be refunded to the applicant and the video gaming terminal operator.

SECTION 3. **Ordinance No. 17,820.** Ordinance No. 17,820, as adopted on January 12, 2021 remains in fully force and effect. Specifically, for the 2021 license year the fees in Section 18-97 will be reduced by 50%.

SECTION 4. **Publication.** The City Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to publish this ordinance in pamphlet form as provided by law.

SECTION 5. **Effective Date.** This ordinance takes effect immediately after its publication.

SECTION 6. **Authority.** This ordinance is adopted under the home-rule authority granted to the City of Peoria by Article 7, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS this ___day of _____ 2021.

APPROVED:

Mayor

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Corporation Counsel

City Clerk