

CENTRAL FALLS TOBACCO DEALERS LICENSE, FLAVORS AND DISCOUNTS ORDINANCE

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ARTICLE X. - TOBACCO DEALERS

Sec. 12-417. - Definitions.

[The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:]

Characterizing flavor means a distinguishable taste or aroma, other than the taste or aroma of tobacco, menthol, mint, or wintergreen, imparted either prior to or during consumption of a tobacco product or component part thereof, including, but not limited to, tastes or aromas relating to any fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey, candy, cocoa, dessert, alcoholic beverage, herb, or spice; provided, however, that no tobacco product shall be determined to have a characterizing flavor solely because of the use of additives or flavorings or the provision of ingredient information.

Cigar means any roll of tobacco other than a cigarette wrapped entirely or in part in tobacco or any substance containing tobacco and weighing more than four pounds per thousand.

Cigarette means: (1) any roll of tobacco wrapped in paper or in any substance not containing tobacco, and (2) any roll of tobacco wrapped in any substance containing tobacco which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler, or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as a cigarette described in clause (1) of this definition.

Component part means any element of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, the tobacco, filter, and paper, but not including any constituent.

Constituent means any ingredient, substance, chemical, or compound, other than tobacco, water, or reconstituted tobacco sheet, which is added by the manufacturer to a tobacco product during the processing, manufacture, or packing of the tobacco product. Such term shall include a smoke constituent.

Consumer means a person who purchases a tobacco product for consumption and not for sale to another.

Coupon means any voucher, rebate, card, paper, note, form, statement, ticket, image, or other issue; whether in paper, digital, or other form; used for commercial purposes to obtain an article, product, service, or accommodation without charge or at a discounted price.

Distinguishable means perceivable by an ordinary consumer by either the sense of smell or taste.

Flavored tobacco product means any tobacco product, other than a cigarette, that contains a constituent that imparts a characterizing flavor.

Full retail price means the higher of the price listed for a tobacco product on its packaging or the price listed on any related shelving, posting, advertising, or display where the tobacco product is sold or offered for sale, plus all applicable taxes and fees if such taxes and fees are not included in the listed price, and before the application of any discounts or coupons.

Little cigar means any roll of tobacco other than a cigarette wrapped entirely or in part in tobacco or any substance containing tobacco and weighing no more than four pounds per thousand. "Little cigar" includes, but is not limited to, tobacco products known or labeled as "small cigar" or "little cigar."

Non-cigarette tobacco product means a tobacco product that is not a cigarette.

Package or packaging means a pack, box, carton, or container of any kind or, if no other container, any wrapping (including cellophane) in which a tobacco product is sold or offered for sale to a consumer.

Person means any natural person, partnership, firm, joint stock company, corporation, or employee thereof, or other legal entity.

Sale or *sell* means any transfer, exchange, barter, gift, offer for sale, or distribution for a commercial purpose, in any manner or by any means whatsoever.

Smoke constituent means any chemical or chemical compound in mainstream or sidestream tobacco product smoke that either transfers from any component of the tobacco product to the smoke or that is formed by the combustion or heating of tobacco, additives, or other component of the tobacco product.

Tobacco product means: (1) any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoke, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, and snuff; and (2) any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah. Notwithstanding any provision of clauses (1) and (2) in this definition to the contrary, tobacco product includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately; tobacco product does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where such product is marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Vending machine means any mechanical, electric, or electronic self-service device which, upon insertion of money, tokens, or any other form of payment, dispenses tobacco products.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-418. - License required.

It shall be unlawful to sell or to possess with the intention of selling tobacco products within the city without having first obtained a tobacco dealer's license pursuant to this article. Such license shall be in addition to any other license required by state and/or federal law. A tobacco dealer's license is valid for one person at one location and may not be transferred from one person to another or from one location to another. Failure to obtain and maintain a valid license shall result in a fine of \$500.00. The fee for the tobacco dealer's license shall be \$100.00 per year. All licenses granted under the provisions of this article shall be displayed in a conspicuous place within the business so licensed.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-419. - License eligibility.

Licenses shall only be granted to authorize the sale of tobacco products within the city at a fixed location. For example, the sale of tobacco products by persons on foot or from vehicles is prohibited.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-420. - License application; term.

Application for a license shall be submitted to the board of license commissioners together with an application fee of \$100.00. A tobacco dealer's license shall be effective through the 30th day of November of the calendar year for which it is issued. No license shall be granted without proof that the applicant has obtained all necessary state licenses for the sale of tobacco products.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-421. - Requirements and prohibitions applicable to licensees.

(a)

[Intent.] No licensee, or employee or agent of such licensee, shall sell or possess with the intention of selling a tobacco product to another person who appears to be under the age of 27 years without first examining the identification of the recipient to confirm that the recipient is at least the minimum age under state law to purchase and possess the tobacco product.

(b)

Display of price. The price of each tobacco product offered for sale shall be clearly and conspicuously displayed to clearly indicate the price of the product.

(c)

Packaging and labeling. No licensee, or employee or agent of such licensee, shall sell any tobacco product unless such product: (1) is sold in the original manufacturer's packaging intended for sale to consumers; and (2) conforms to all applicable federal labeling requirements.

(d)

Prohibition of tobacco coupons and discounts. No licensee, or employee or agent of such licensee, shall:

(1)

Accept or redeem, or offer to accept or redeem, or cause or hire any person to accept or redeem or offer to accept or redeem any coupon that provides any tobacco product to a consumer without charge or for less than the full retail price;

(2)

Sell any tobacco product to a consumer through a multiple-package discount (e.g., "buy-two-get-one-free") or otherwise provide any tobacco product to a consumer for less than the full retail price in exchange for the purchase of any other tobacco product;

(3)

Provide any free or discounted item to a consumer in exchange for the purchase of any tobacco product.

(e)

Sale of flavored tobacco products prohibited. No licensee, or employee or agent of such licensee, shall sell any flavored tobacco product to a consumer. A non-cigarette tobacco product is presumed to be a flavored tobacco product if a manufacturer or any of the manufacturer's agents or employees has: (1) made a public statement or claim that the non-cigarette tobacco product has or produces a characterizing flavor, including, but not limited to, text and/or images on the product's labeling or packaging that are used to explicitly or implicitly communicate information about the flavor, taste, or aroma of a non-cigarette tobacco product; or (2) taken action directed to consumers that would be reasonably expected to result in consumers believing that the non-cigarette tobacco product imparts a characterizing flavor. Each licensee shall maintain on the premises the original labeling and packaging provided by the manufacturer for all tobacco products that are sold or offered for sale by the licensee separately from the original packaging designed for retail sale to the consumer. The original labeling and packaging from which the contents are sold separately shall be maintained during such time as the contents of the package are offered for sale, and may be disposed of upon the sale of the entire contents of such package.

This subsection (e) shall not apply to a smoking bar as defined in Section 23-20.10-2(15) of the Rhode Island General Laws

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-422. - Suspension or revocation of license—Fines and costs.

The police department and the city solicitor shall enforce the provisions of this article. All licensees shall be subject to a compliance check at least two times a year; violators shall be checked more frequently until two consecutive compliance checks are completed without violation. If an alleged violation occurs, the police department shall issue a citation that will require the licensee to appear for a show cause hearing before the city council sitting as the board of license commissioners. If, after a hearing, the board finds that a violation has occurred, the board may impose a civil fine of \$250.00 for the first offense, \$350.00 for the second offense, and \$500.00 for any subsequent offense. Additionally, the board may suspend or revoke the license or provide any other sanction authorized under the law. If a licensee maintains its license for 36 consecutive months without a violation, any new violation shall be treated as a first offense. It is the intent of this section that all

fees and fines collected by the city hereunder shall be used by the police department for the purpose of conducting tobacco product and/or licensing compliance checks.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-423. - Use of premises during license suspension.

During the period of any suspension of a tobacco dealer's license, the licensee shall remove all tobacco products from the retail display area of the location and secure them in a locked area for the duration of the suspension. If, at any time during the suspension period, the licensee is found to be selling, distributing, or delivering any tobacco products, the license shall be revoked.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-424. - Vending machines.

Businesses which have vending machines shall be subject to the same fines and penalties as described in this article. In the event that a tobacco dealer's license is suspended or revoked, then the vending machine shall be removed from the licensed location for the period of suspension or revocation.

(Ord. of [10-14-2015](#), § 3)

Sec. 12-425. - Severability.

If any provision of this article, or application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held unconstitutional, illegal, or otherwise invalid, the remaining provisions of this article and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances, other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.