



Fort Worth Gaming Ordinance – *What's it all about?*



The City of Fort Worth recently adopted a new ordinance affecting the operation of eight liner and other similar gaming machines. It is now unlawful to operate, display or otherwise have these machines in areas throughout the City, with the exception of businesses located within light, medium or heavy industrial zoning districts.

Q: What is the definition of a gaming machine, also known as an “amusement redemption machine” in the City of Fort Worth ordinance?

A: Amusement Redemption Machines means any electronic, electromechanical or mechanical contrivance, including sweepstakes machines, designed, made and adapted solely for bona fide amusement purposes, and that by operation of chance or combination of skill affords the user, in addition to any right of replay, an opportunity to receive exclusively non-cash merchandise, prizes, toys or novelties, or a representation of a value redeemable for those items and is in compliance with Section 47.01 (4) (b) of the Texas Penal Code.

Q: Where can I find a copy of the City’s new ordinance?

A: A copy of the ordinance is available online at:
www.fortworthtexas.gov/records

Click: Ordinance

Search: Ordinance No. 21499-10-2014



Q: Have businesses been notified about the new ordinance:

A: Yes. Businesses have been notified to remove the machines from the premises no later than January 20, 2015.

Q: Where are gaming machines allowed in Fort Worth?

A: Gaming Machines are only allowed in Light Industrial (I), Medium Industrial (J) or Heavy Industrial (K) zoning districts.

- Businesses can determine their zoning by going to: www.fortworthtexas.gov/planninganddevelopment
- If a business is located in Light Industrial (I), Medium Industrial (J) or Heavy Industrial (K) zoning district and they wish to keep the machines, they’ll need to make application for a Planned Development District.
- Business owners can learn more about the process at: www.fortworthtexas.gov/planninganddevelopment
- Business owners will need to initiate this action **no later than January 12, 2015**, the last Zoning Commission application deadline day, to avoid a conflict with the January 20, 2015 deadline.

Q: Who enforces the ordinance?

A: The City has a team of commercial enforcement officers that are responsible for the enforcement of the ordinance. While enforcement action will not begin until January 20, 2015, the City encourages concerned businesses and residents to reach out to these staff now so that additional outreach and problem-solving can occur before the deadline.

To learn more: 817-392-1234