

CHRISTOPHER B. MOSLEY Section Chief, General Litigation Direct Dial: (817) 392-7603 Chris.Mosley@fortworthtexas.gov

January 22, 2025

## Re: Game Room/Amusement Redemption Machine Compliance Letter

In 2014, in response to citizen complaints about crime around game rooms, the City Council adopted two ordinances, licensing and zoning, to combat the problems residents were experiencing with game rooms in their communities. The City was sued upon the effective date of the ordinances, and after over nine years, the litigation has ended in the City's favor. In June, the Texas Supreme Court declined further appeals in *Stephannie Lynn Rylie, et al v. The City of Fort Worth and David Cooke, in his Official Capacity as City Manager,* leaving in place a Second Court of Appeals opinion holding that eight liners, referred to as amusement-redemption machines in our ordinances, are unconstitutional lotteries because they are games of chance.

As a result of the litigation's outcome, on October 15, 2024, the City Council adopted an ordinance amending the City Code to repeal the licensing provisions for amusement-redemption machines and game rooms. The City Council voted to approve the zoning-text amendment on December 10, 2024, to fully effectuate the ban of eight liners/amusement redemption machines and game rooms.

City records show that you possess an eight-liner also known as an amusement redemption machine. You are hereby notified that you must comply with the City's ban on eight-liners by removing them from the City by March 17, 2025. Failure to do so will subject you to enforcement actions including, but not limited to, injunctive relief, civil penalties, or criminal enforcement. Grandfathering does not apply since, legally, eight-liners/amusement redemption machines within game rooms are unconstitutional lotteries.

You should consult an attorney should you have any legal questions. Should you have questions related to this letter, please contact the undersigned. Should you have questions regarding the ordinances, please call Inkah Michelle at 817-392-6138. If you need to update your certificate of occupancy, please contact Support Services at 817-392-2222.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher B. Mosley

Christopher B. Mosley Senior Assistant City Attorney Section Chief, General Litigation