

**ORDINANCE NO. 25952-01-2023**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20, "LICENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TO ADD ARTICLE XIV ENTITLED "BOARDING HOMES", ESTABLISHING THE INSPECTION, REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING OF BOARDING HOMES, AND ESTABLISHING ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY; PROVIDING RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND NAMING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature enacted H.B. 216 in 2009 which provided municipalities and counties with the option to require boarding homes obtain a permit to operate, charge fees and require compliance with adopted model standards developed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission published model standards for the operation of boarding home facilities related to: construction and remodeling of boarding homes; sanitary and related conditions; the reporting and investigating of injuries, incidents and unusual accidents and the establishment of policies and procedures to ensure resident health and safety; assistance with self-administering medication; requirement for in-service education of staff; criminal history checks; assessment and periodic monitoring; municipal regulation of boarding home facilities in the August 27, 2010 edition of the Texas Register; and

**WHEREAS**, H.B. 216 was codified in Chapter 260 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

**WHEREAS**, neither Chapter 260 nor any other state law requires boarding home facilities to comply with uniform state standards; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 215.075 of the Texas Local Government Code grants home-rule municipalities the authority to license any lawful business or occupation that is subject to the police power of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council believes that the standards in this ordinance will provide adequate standards to protect the health and safety of residents of boarding home facilities, including ensuring that adequate life-safety measures are present in boarding homes; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council acknowledges that if neighborhoods become composed largely of boarding homes, that could adversely affect individuals with disabilities and would be

inconsistent with the objective of integrating persons with disabilities into the community in a residential setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that the regulation of boarding home facilities through this ordinance, which includes the adoption of model standards, the issuing of permits, the inspection of boarding home facilities and the ability to enforce the provisions of the ordinance is in the best interest of the public and will promote the public health, safety and welfare of the City;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF FORT WORTH:**

**SECTION 1.**

The Code of Ordinances of Fort Worth, Texas is hereby amended by adding a new article, Article XIV “Boarding Homes” to Chapter 20, “Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations,” comprised of Sections 20-470 through 20-499 which read as follows:

**ARTICLE XIV. – BOARDING HOMES**

**DIVISION I – GENERAL**

**SEC. 20-470. PURPOSE**

(a) The purpose of this article is to implement the provisions of Chapter 260, Texas Health and Safety Code, entitled “Boarding Home Facilities”, as amended, which allows the city to establish regulations for the protection of the health and safety of residents of boarding home facilities. It is the intent and purpose of the city to administer and enforce this article to ensure the health, safety and welfare of boarding home facility residents by establishing standards for construction, maintenance, reporting, record-keeping, education, and training for owners, operators and employees of boarding home facilities. These standards are implemented pursuant to the city’s home-rule authority under Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and the authority to license or permit lawful businesses subject to the city’s police power granted by Sections 54.004 and 215.075 of the Texas Local Government Code.

(b) The City intends that this article fully comply with the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (“FHAA”), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008, and all other applicable state and federal legislation. It is the express intent of the city that this article be construed in a manner consistent with the FHAA, the ADA, and all other applicable state and federal legislation at all times.

**SEC. 20- 471. DEFINITIONS.**

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, in this Article:

(1) ABUSE means:

(A) The negligent or willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical or emotional harm or pain to a resident by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an on-going relationship with the person; or

(B) Sexual abuse of a resident, including any involuntary or non-consensual sexual conduct that would constitute an offense under Section 21.08 of the Texas Penal Code (indecent exposure), as amended, or Chapter 22 of the Texas Penal Code (assaultive offenses), as amended, committed by the person's caretaker, family member or other individual who has an on-going relationship with the person.

(2) ASSISTANCE WITH SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION means:

(A) Assisting a resident by reminding the resident to take medication;

(B) Opening and removing medications from a container;

(C) Placing medication in a resident's hand or in or on a clean surface such as a medication reminder box; and

(D) Reminding a resident when a prescription medication needs to be refilled.

(3) BOARDING HOME FACILITY means an establishment that:

(A) Furnishes, in one or more buildings, lodging to three or more elderly and/or disabled persons who are unrelated to the owner of the establishment by blood or marriage; and

(B) Provides community meals, light housework, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, money management, laundry services, or assistance with self-administration of medication to persons/residents who are capable of feeding, dressing, moving, self-evacuating, bathing and attending to other personal needs or maintenance without assistance; and

(C) Does not provide personal care services to persons/residents.

(4) CONVICTION means a conviction in a federal court or a court of any state or foreign nation or political subdivision of a state or foreign nation that has not been reversed, vacated, or pardoned. "Conviction" includes disposition of charges against a person

by community supervision, including probation and deferred adjudication.

- (5) DEPARTMENT means the department designated by the city manager to enforce and administer this article.
- (6) DIRECT THREAT means a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services.
- (7) DIRECTOR means the director of the department designated by the city manager to enforce and administer this article and includes representatives, agents, or department employees designated by the director.
- (8) DISABILITY means a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 12102, as amended.
- (9) ELDERLY means 65 years of age or older.
- (10) EMPLOYEE means a person who performs caretaking duties or regularly works in a boarding home facility.
- (11) EXPLOITATION means the illegal or improper act or process of an owner, operator, employee, caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the resident using the resources of a resident for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain without the informed consent of the resident.
- (12) INJURY, INCIDENT, OR UNUSUAL ACCIDENT means an event that resulted in a change in resident's physical or mental status that requires intervention by a private or public entity responsible for medical or mental health services or an event that requires the facility to take safety and protection measures for the resident or others. This term includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (A) An allegation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
  - (B) Death.
  - (C) A resident's unexplained absence from the boarding home facility.
  - (D) Fire.
  - (E) Criminal acts.
  - (F) Fights between residents.
- (13) NEGLECT means the failure of a resident or permit holder to provide goods or services, including medical services that are necessary to avoid physical or emotional



harm or pain.

(14) OPERATOR means the person in control of a boarding home facility.

(15) OWNER means an individual who has an ownership interest in a corporation or other legal entity operating a boarding home facility or the owner of the real property where a boarding home facility is located.

(16) PERMIT HOLDER means:

- (A) A person in whose name a boarding home facility permit has been issued;
- (B) Each individual listed as an owner or operator of the boarding home facility on the application for a boarding home facility permit;
- (C) Each individual who has an ownership interest in the corporation or other legal entity owning or operating the boarding home facility, regardless of whether the individual's name or signature appears on the boarding home facility permit application; and
- (D) Each officer of the corporation or other legal entity owning or operating a boarding home facility, regardless of whether the individual's name or signature appears on the boarding home facility permit application.

(17) PERSONAL CARE SERVICES means:

- (A) Assistance with meals, dressing, movement, bathing, or other personal needs or maintenance;
- (B) The administration of medication by a person licensed to administer medication or the assistance with or supervision of medication; or
- (C) General supervision or oversight of the physical and mental well-being of a person who needs assistance to maintain a private and independent residence in an assisted living facility or who needs assistance to manage the person's personal life, regardless of whether a guardian has been appointed for the person.

(18) RESIDENT means a person who is residing in a boarding home facility.

(19) SLEEPING ROOM means an area used by a resident for sleeping containing a bed and does not include a bathroom, kitchen, living area or other open space area.

#### **SEC. 20-472. AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR.**

The director shall implement and enforce this article and may by written order establish such rules, regulations, or procedures, not inconsistent with this article or other city ordinances,

rules, or regulations, or any county, state, or federal laws or regulations, as the director determines are necessary to discharge any duty under or to affect the policy of this article.

## **DIVISION II –ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **SEC. 20-473. PERMIT REQUIRED.**

(a) A person commits an offense if they own or operate a boarding home facility in the city without a valid permit issued under this article.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section if a person operates a facility listed in section 20-474 of this article.

### **SEC. 20-474. EXEMPTIONS.**

This article does not apply to the following:

- (1) Home and community support services licensed under Chapter 142 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (2) Convalescent and nursing homes and related institutions licensed under Chapter 242 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (3) Continuing care facilities licensed under Chapter 246 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (4) Assisted living facilities licensed under Chapter 247 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (5) Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded licensed under Chapter 252 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (6) A person that provides from home health, hospice, or personal assistance services only to persons enrolled in a program funded wholly or partly by a state agency with jurisdiction over mental health and mental disability and monitored by that state agency or its designated local authority in accordance with standards set by that agency as defined in Section 142.003(a)(19) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.

- (7) An establishment conducted by or for the adherents of a well-recognized church or religious denomination for the purpose of providing facilities for the care and treatment of the sick who depend exclusively on prayer or spiritual means for healing, without the use of any drug or material remedy, if the establishment complies with safety, sanitary, and quarantine laws and rules as defined in Section 242.003(3) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (8) A facility that provides personal care services only to persons enrolled in a program that is funded in whole or in part by a state department or agency and that is monitored by a state department or agency or its designated local mental retardation authority in accordance with standards set by the state department or agency, as defined in Section 247.004(4) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended.
- (9) A hotel as defined by Section 156.001 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended.
- (10) A retirement community as defined by Section 11.18 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended.
- (11) A monastery or convent.
- (12) A childcare facility as defined by Section 42.002 of the Texas Human Resources Code as amended.
- (13) A family violence shelter center as defined by section 51.002 of the Texas Human Resources Code, as amended.
- (14) A fraternity or sorority house, or other dormitory, associated with an institution of higher education.

**SEC. 20-475. PERMIT APPLICATION**

(a) To obtain a permit to operate a boarding home facility, a person must submit an application to the director on a form provided for that purpose. The applicant must be the owner or operator of the boarding home facility. If the owner or operator is not an individual, an authorized officer or agent of the owner or operator must file the form. The application must contain the following information and be accompanied by the fee required under his article before it is considered to be complete:

- (1) The name, street address, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, a legible copy of the driver's license or other official state or federal identification

card, and date of birth of the applicant. The street address may not be the address of the boarding home facility unless the applicant actually resides full-time at the boarding home facility.

- (2) The name, street address, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, a legible copy of the driver's license or other official state or federal identification card, and position of the authorized officer or agent filing the form on behalf of the applicant, if the applicant is not an individual. The street address may not be the address of the boarding home facility unless the authorized officer or agent actually resides full-time at the boarding home facility.
- (3) The form of business of the applicant; the name, street address, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, a legible copy of the driver's license or other official state or federal identification card, and date of birth of a high managerial agent of the business; and, if the business is a legal entity, such as a corporation or association, a copy of the documents establishing the business.
- (4) If the operator of the boarding home is renting or leasing the home or facility, then the operator must present a letter from the owner of the real property authorizing the use of the rental property to operate a boarding home and acknowledging the requirements for the property to be used as a boarding home set out within this article.
- (5) The street address and telephone number of the boarding home facility.
- (6) The name, street address, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number of a person or persons to contact in an emergency as required by this article.
- (7) Documentary evidence of payment of ad valorem taxes, fees, fines, and penalties owed to the city in connection with the real property used to operate the boarding home facility.
- (8) The names, street addresses, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, legible copies of the drivers' licenses or other official state or federal identification cards, and dates of birth of any owners, operators, or employees of the boarding home facility other than the applicant. The street address may not be the address of the boarding home facility, unless the owner, operator, or employee actually resides full-time at the boarding home facility.
- (9) Completed state or federal request and release forms authorizing the city to obtain a criminal history report on each owner, operator and employee of the boarding home facility.

- (10) The maximum number of residents that will reside at the boarding home facility.
- (11) The services to be offered or provided to the residents of the boarding home facility.
- (12) A zoning verification letter stating that the proposed use of the property complies with the city's Zoning Ordinance.
- (13) If the boarding home facility has one or more residents with a disability, a list of disabilities of the residents.
- (14) A statement that, by filing the application, the applicant swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, all information contained in the application is true and correct and that the application is complete and includes all information required to be disclosed under this section.
- (15) Such additional information as the applicant desires to include or that the director deems necessary to aid in the determination of whether the requested permit should be granted.

(b) The application will automatically expire if either the fee or the information requested in subsection (a) is not provided to the director within 30 days of the date the applicant was notified of the request for additional information.

**SEC. 20-476. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF INFORMATION.**

The permit holder shall notify the director within 10 days after any material change in the information contained in the application for a permit to operate a boarding home facility, including any change in ownership or operation of the property and any new disabilities served by the boarding home facility.

**SEC. 20-477. FEES.**

- (a) The fee for a permit to operate a boarding home facility is \$1,500.00.
- (b) No refund of a permit fee will be made.

**SEC. 20-478. ISSUANCE AND DENIAL OF PERMIT.**

(a) Upon payment of all required fees and the submission of a complete application, the director may issue a permit to operate a boarding home facility to the applicant if the director determines that:

- (1) The applicant has complied with all requirements for issuance of the permit;
- (2) The applicant, owners, operators, and employees of the boarding home facility meet the criminal history qualifications of this article;
- (3) The applicant, owners, operators, or employees of the boarding home facility do not own or operate another permitted boarding home facility in the city for which the permit is currently suspended or has been revoked;
- (4) The applicant has not made a false statement as to a material matter in the application for a permit;
- (5) The condition and use of the boarding home facility complies with zoning regulations, and all other standards in this article applicable to the property; and
- (6) The applicant, owners, and operators do not owe the city any ad valorem taxes, fees, fines or penalties.

(b) If the director determines that the requirements of Subsection (a) have not been met, the director shall deny the permit.

(c) If the director determines that an applicant should be denied a permit, the director shall notify the applicant in writing that the application is denied and include in the notice the reason for denial and a statement informing the applicant of the right of appeal.

#### **SEC. 20-479 SUSPENSION OF PERMIT; PROHIBITION OF NEW RESIDENTS.**

(a) The director may suspend a boarding home facility permit for a period not to exceed 90 days if the director finds that the permit holder or an employee of the boarding home facility has:

- (1) Failed to comply with any provision of this article, any other ordinance, or any state or federal law applicable to the operation of a boarding home facility; or
- (2) Intentionally or knowingly impeded or refused to allow an inspection by the director authorized under this article.

(b) A boarding home facility for which the permit has been suspended may not admit any new residents during the time the permit is suspended.

(c) In lieu of suspending a permit for a boarding home facility, the director, at their sole discretion, may enter into a compliance agreement with a permit holder if the director determines that the compliance agreement would eliminate the noncompliance that would otherwise justify a suspension, result in prompt future inspections, and elevate one or more conditions at the boarding home facility to a standard above the requirements of this article.

(d) The director shall send a written statement of the reasons for the suspension, the date the suspension is to begin, the duration of the suspension, and the permit holder's right to appeal by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(e) A permit holder whose permit is suspended may not be granted a permit to operate additional boarding home facilities during the period of suspension.

(f) A permit holder commits an offense if they operate or own a boarding home facility that admits new residents during the time that the suspension of the permit is in effect.

#### **SEC. 20-480. REVOCATION OF PERMIT.**

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the director shall revoke any permit issued to operate a boarding home facility if the director determines that:

- (1) The permit holder fails to meet the criminal history qualifications of this article or employs a person at the facility who fails to meet the criminal history qualifications.
- (2) The permit holder intentionally made a false statement as to a material matter in the application or in a hearing concerning the permit;
- (3) The permit holder failed to pay a fee required by this article at the time it was due; or
- (4) A cause for suspension under Section 20-480 has occurred and the permit has already been suspended at least once within the preceding 12 months.

(b) In lieu of revoking a permit for a boarding home facility, the director, at their sole discretion may enter into a compliance agreement with a permit holder if the director determines that the compliance agreement would eliminate the noncompliance that would otherwise justify a revocation, result in prompt future inspections, and elevate one or more conditions at the boarding home facility to a standard above the requirements of this article.

(c) Before revoking a license under Subsection (a), the director shall notify the permit holder in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the permit is being considered for revocation. The notice must include the reason for the proposed revocation, action the permit holder must take to prevent the revocation, and a statement that the permit holder has 10 calendar days to comply with the notice.

(d) If, after 10 calendar days from the date of the notice required in Subsection (c) was sent or delivered (whichever is later), the permit holder has not complied with required actions listed in the notice, the director shall revoke the permit and notify the permit holder in writing of the revocation. The notice must include the reason for the revocation, and a statement informing the permit holder of the right to appeal.

(e) If a permit has been revoked, the permit holder has 10 calendar days from the date the notice was sent or delivered (whichever is later), to relocate the residents of the facility and cease operations. An appeal of the revocation does not suspend or toll this deadline

**SEC. 20-481. APPEALS.**

If the director denies issuance or renewal of a permit or suspends or revokes a permit issued under this article, the action is final unless the permit holder files a written appeal within 10 business days with the Office of the City Manager.

**SEC. 20-482. EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF PERMIT.**

(a) A permit to operate a boarding home facility expires one year after the date of issuance.

(b) A permit holder shall apply for renewal at least 30 calendar days before the expiration of the permit on a form provided by the director. The permit holder shall update the information contained in the original permit application required under Section 20-475 of this article or any subsequent renewals under this section, if any of the information has changed. The permit holder shall sign a statement affirming that there is either no change in the information contained on the original permit application and any subsequent renewal applications, or that any information that has been updated is accurate and complete.

(c) The director shall follow the procedures set forth in this article when determining whether to renew a permit.

(d) The fee for the renewal of a permit to operate a boarding home facility is \$1,000.00.



**SEC. 20-483. NONTRANSFERABILITY.**

A permit to operate a boarding home facility is not transferable to another owner, operator, or location.

**SEC. 20-484. POSTING REQUIREMENTS.**

The permit holder shall prominently and conspicuously post for display in a public area inside the boarding home facility that is readily available to residents, the operator, employees, and visitors the following:

- (1) The permit issued under this article to operate the boarding home facility. The permit must be presented upon request to the director, director's designee or to a peace officer for examination.
- (2) A sign prescribed by the director specifying how complaint may be registered with the city.
- (3) A notice in a form prescribed by the director stating that inspection and related reports are available at the facility for public inspection and providing a telephone number that may be used to obtain information concerning the facility.
- (4) A copy of the most recent inspection report relating to the facility by the city or a concise and accurate summary of that inspection report.
- (5) A notice in a form prescribed by the director that lists the name, location, and contact information for:
  - (A) The closest local public health services agency in the proximity of the facility; and
  - (B) A local organization or entity that represents, advocates, or serves elderly persons or persons with disabilities, including any related toll-free contact information for reporting emergencies to the organization or entity.

**SEC. 20-485. INSPECTIONS; FEES.**

(a) Required inspections.

(1) A boarding home facility must pass all required inspections.

(2) The permit holder shall keep a current file of reports and other documentation on site that is needed to demonstrate compliance with applicable ordinances, laws, and regulations, including, but not limited to, documentation of those

requirements set out in sections 20-491, 20-494, 20-496, 20-497 and 20-498 of this article. Inspection records must be signed and dated by the appropriate authority and there must be no pending corrective actions.

(3) The following inspections are required:

- (A) Permitting inspection.
- (B) Annual permit renewal inspection.
- (C) Annual fire inspection.
- (D) Annual kitchen inspection for a boarding home facility that provides meal preparation.

(b) Other inspections. The director may inspect any boarding home facility for the purpose of ascertaining whether violations of this article or any other city ordinances exist. The director is authorized at a reasonable time to inspect:

- (1) The exterior of a structure and the surrounding premises; and
- (2) The interior of a structure if the permission of the owner, occupant, or person in control is given or a search warrant is obtained.

(c) Consequences of refusal to inspect. If the owner, occupant, or person in control denies permission to search any part of the interior or exterior of the structure or the surrounding premises, the director may suspend the permit to operate a boarding home facility in accordance with Section 20-480.

(d) Reinspections. Whenever a boarding home facility is inspected by the director and a violation of this article or any other city ordinances is found, the building or premises will, after the expiration of any time limit for compliance given in the notice or order issued because of the violation, be reinspected by the director to determine that the violation has been eliminated.

(e) Reinspection fee: The permit holder shall pay:

- (1) To the director, \$500.00, for each reinspection after the first inspection by that department that must be conducted before the violation is determined to be eliminated; and
- (2) To the director of any other city department the fee required (if any) by the applicable code for each reinspection by that department that must be conducted before the violation is determined to be eliminated.

**SEC. 20-486. REPORTS TO THE TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION.**

As required by Section 260 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, before September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, the director shall submit a report to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The report must contain the following information:

- (1) The total number of boarding home facilities issued permits by the city during the preceding state fiscal year.
- (2) The total number of boarding home facility applications for which permits were denied, including a summary of the causes for denial.
- (3) The total number of boarding home facility permits that were active on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding state fiscal year.
- (4) The total number of residents housed in each boarding home facility reported.
- (5) The total number of inspections conducted by the city at each boarding home facility.
- (6) The total number of permits suspended or revoked as a result of an inspection.
- (7) A summary of the outcome for any residents displaced by suspension or revocation of a permit.

**DIVISION III -- STRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE.**

**SEC. 20-487. CONSTRUCTION, REMODELING, AND MAINTENANCE.**

(a) In general. Each permit holder shall ensure the residents' health, safety, comfort, and protection through the standards contained in this section that address the construction, remodeling, and maintenance of a boarding home facility.

(b) Applicable regulations. Each boarding home facility must comply with the following codes and regulations:

- (1) Local zoning, building and property maintenance codes.
- (2) Federal, state, or local adopted fire codes and standards.
- (3) Federal, state, and local health and safety codes.
- (4) Federal and state accessibility regulations.

(c) Public pathways and stairways. A public pathway or stairway in a building must maintain a minimum unobstructed width in accordance with the local fire code, as amended, and must be provided with a convenient light switch controlling an adequate light system.

(d) Maintenance.

- (1) The permit holder shall maintain the dwelling and premises in a clean and sanitary condition.
- (2) The permit holder shall keep a boarding home facility in good repair and maintenance in a manner that will promote the health, comfort, safety, and

well-being of residents.

- (3) The permit holder shall be responsible for the extermination of any insects, rodents or other pests in the rooms occupied by residents, storage areas, attics, or on the premises or yard.

**SEC. 20-488. SLEEPING ROOMS.**

(a) Sleeping space per person. Each room occupied for sleeping purposes by one occupant must contain at least 70 square feet of floor space, and every room occupied for sleeping purposes by more than one person must contain at least 50 square feet of floor space for each occupant.

(b) Emergency exit. Each sleeping room must provide access to an emergency exit without passing through another sleeping room.

**SEC. 20-489. TELEPHONE.**

A telephone that is connected to a land line must be available 24 hours a day, be easily accessible, and afford privacy for use by residents. A list of emergency telephone numbers, including the numbers of the local police department, local fire department, ambulance, the City department that issued the boarding home permit, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the local mental health authority, and the Texas Information and Referral Network, must be placed in plain view on or next to the telephone and made accessible to persons who are visually or hearing impaired, as needed.

**SEC. 20-490. KITCHEN.**

(a) A kitchen must be accessible to each resident without going through a sleeping room of another resident;

(b) A kitchen must have a food preparation area of at least six square feet that is smooth, impermeable, free of cracks, and easily cleanable.

(c) If a boarding home facility has a kitchen it must contain a minimum floor space of sixty square feet for dining area. A kitchen with an attached dining area must be at least 100 square feet in area.

(d) A kitchen must contain a sink with for manual dishwashing.

(e) A kitchen must contain an operational cooking stove with at least two burners fueled by gas or electricity.

(f) A kitchen must contain at least one cabinet with a minimum of five cubic feet of storage space per resident, suitable for storage of food and utensils.

(g) The permit holder shall keep the kitchen in a clean and sanitary condition.

#### **DIVISION IV. -- RESIDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY**

##### **SEC. 20-491. EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS.**

(a) The permit holder shall provide fire escapes and exits that are kept in good repair and accessible at all times in accordance with applicable fire codes, as amended.

(b) The permit holder shall implement a written fire and evacuation plan that sets forth the responsibilities and steps to be taken by staff and residents in the event of a fire or other emergency. If a boarding home facility has a resident who has a mobility-impairment, the permit holder shall submit the written plan to the local fire department and obtain its approval of the plan.

(c) The permit holder shall post an emergency evacuation plan in each sleeping room and the kitchen of the facility.

(d) The permit holder shall ensure that each resident receives training on the emergency evacuation plan at least two times per year and shall maintain documentation of such training.

(e) Flammable supplies and gasoline-operated maintenance equipment and lawn care equipment must be stored in the garage of the facility or in a detached storage shed.

(f) The permit holder shall ensure that all residents are shown how to use all emergency exits from the boarding home facility within 24 hours after arrival at the boarding home facility. The permit holder shall maintain documentation of such training.

(g) First aid supplies.

(1) The permit holder shall provide first aid supplies as recommended by the American Red Cross.

(2) The permit holder shall ensure that the first aid supplies are readily accessible to all the residents and inform the residents of the location of the supplies.

##### **SEC. 20-492. POISONOUS, TOXIC, AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS.**

(a) The permit holder shall ensure that poisonous, toxic, and flammable materials:

(1) Are stored and maintained away from bed linens, towels, food items, and kitchen equipment; and

- (2) Are not used in a way that contaminates food equipment or utensils or constitutes a hazard to employees or residents.

(b) The permit holder shall prominently and distinctly label poisonous, toxic, and flammable materials for easy identification of contents.

**SEC. 20-493. FOOD AND DRINK; MEALS.**

(a) In general. If a boarding home facility serves meals to one or more residents, the permit holder shall ensure the following:

- (1) All food and drink are clean and free from spoilage, pathogenic organisms, toxic chemicals, and other harmful substances.
- (2) All food and drink are prepared, stored, handled, and served so as to be safe for human consumption.
- (3) All food or drink subject to spoilage is maintained at a temperature of 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- (4) Hot foods that are ready to be served are maintained at 135 degrees Fahrenheit or above at all times.
- (5) All food or drink stored in the freezer is maintained at a temperature of no higher than 0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (6) All food stored in food containers shall be appropriately labeled, dated, and protected from flies, insects, rodents, dust and moisture.

(b) Animals prohibited. With the exception of service animals for persons with disabilities, birds, cats, dogs, or other animals are not permitted in areas where food is prepared or stored, or where utensils are washed or stored.

(c) Food handling.

- (1) An owner, operator, employee, or resident engaged in food handling shall:
  - (A) Observe sanitary methods, including hand washing; and
  - (B) Not be assigned to preparing foods for others at the facility if carrying a disease that can be transmitted to others.
- (2) If preparing meals for residents, staff must obtain a valid food handler's permit in accordance with Chapter 16 of the city code.

**SEC. 20-494. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF INJURIES, INCIDENTS AND UNUSUAL ACCIDENTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE RESIDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

(a) Each permit holder of a boarding home facility must ensure that there is on-site supervision of its boarding home facility during any time that a resident is present at the facility.

(b) Each permit holder of a boarding home facility must develop and implement policies and procedures for investigating and documenting injuries, incidents and unusual accidents that involve residents. Permit holders must also establish policies and procedures necessary to ensure resident health and safety.

- (1) Minimum requirements for the documentation of injuries, incidents or unusual accidents should include, but are not limited to:
  - (A) Date and time of the injury, incident or unusual accident occurred.
  - (B) Description of the injury, incident or unusual accident.
  - (C) Description of any medical or mental health treatment the resident received.
  - (D) Steps taken by the permit holder to prevent future injuries, incidents or unusual accidents if a problem at the room and board facility resulted in the injury, incident or unusual accident.
  - (E) When the resident's legal guardian or legally authorized representative was notified about the injury, incident or unusual accident.
- (2) Residents, the resident's guardian, or legally authorized representatives should be given access to records within forty-eight hours of requesting the records from the permit holder.

(c) In addition to investigating and documenting injuries, incidents or unusual accidents, a permit holder must report any allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult age sixty-five or older or an adult with a disability to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Failure to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an elderly adult or adult with a disability is a Class A misdemeanor.

- (1) Each permit holder should ensure that each resident has access to a telephone twenty-four hours per day that is easily accessible and affords privacy for use by residents.
- (2) The permit holder shall ensure that no resident is harassed, threatened or intimidated at any time for making a report of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- (3) Permit holders will provide each resident with a copy of the definitions of abuse, neglect or exploitation as outlined in Chapter 48 of the Human Resources Code.

- (4) Permit holders will allow law enforcement personnel, emergency medical and fire personnel access to the room and board facility when these professionals are responding to a call at the permit holder's room and board facility.

(d) No operator or other employee of a boarding home facility shall provide services or engage in behavior that constitutes a financial conflict of interest including:

- (1) Borrowing from or loaning money to residents;
- (2) Witnessing wills in which the operator or employee is a beneficiary;
- (3) Co-mingling the resident's funds with the operator's or other residents' funds; or
- (4) Becoming the guardian, conservator or power of attorney for a resident.

(e) If a permit holder becomes the representative payee for a resident or assists a resident with general money management, the permit holder shall:

- (1) Maintain separate financial records for each resident for which the permit holder is the representative payee for the entire period of time the permit holder is the resident's representative payee and continue to maintain the resident's records for one year past the last calendar day the permit holder is the resident's representative payee;
- (2) Include in the records an itemized list of expenditures that the permit holder has made on behalf of the resident, including the charges that are assessed by the permit holder;
- (3) Maintain receipts for all expenditures in addition to the itemized documentation;
- (4) Develop a budget with the resident outlining routine expenditures and ensure that expenditures that are not routine are discussed with the resident before the resident's funds are expended; and
- (5) The permit holder will allow the resident, the resident's guardian, or legally authorized representative access to the resident's financial records that are maintained by the permit holder within forty-eight hours of receiving a request.



(f) A permit holder of a boarding home facility shall develop a service agreement with each resident and maintain a copy of the agreement signed by the resident.

**SEC. 20-495. ASSISTANCE WITH SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION.**

(a) Assistance with self-administration of medication may be provided to an adult resident who can identify his or her medication and knows when the medication should be taken but requires assistance with self-administration. Assistance with self-administration of medication may not be provided to a minor.

(b) Assistance with self-administration of medication is limited to:

- (1) Reminding the resident to take medication;
- (2) Opening a container, removing medication from a container, and placing medication in a resident's hand or in or on a clean surface, such as a pill cup or medication reminder box, for the resident's self-administration; and
- (3) Reminding the resident when a prescription needs to be refilled.

(c) The permit holder shall store all residents' medication in a locked area. The permit holder shall provide a central locked storage area or individual locked storage areas at the boarding home facility for each resident's medication.

- (1) If the boarding home facility uses a central medication storage area, a boarding home employee must be available to provide access at all times and each resident's medication must be stored separately from other residents' medications within the storage area.
- (2) If a resident's medication requires refrigeration, the permit holder shall provide a refrigerator with a designated and locked storage area or a refrigerator inside a locked medication room.
- (3) The permit holder shall store medications labeled "for external use only" separately within the locked area.

(d) The permit holder shall ensure that poisonous substances are labeled and safely stored within a locked area.

(e) If a boarding home facility stores controlled substances, the permit holders shall adopt and enforce a written policy for preventing the diversion of the controlled substances.

(f) After a resident ceases to reside in the boarding home facility, the permit holder shall properly dispose of any of the resident's remaining medication in accordance with applicable laws.

**SEC. 20-496. REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-SERVICE EDUCATION OF BOARDING HOME FACILITY STAFF.**

(a) Each permit holder, employee and staff member of a boarding home facility must be trained on the following subjects prior to contact with residents:

- (1) Employer rules and policies.
- (2) Preventing, recognizing, and reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation of residents.
- (3) Residents' rights, including all applicable rights from the following:
  - (A) Chapter 102 (Rights of the Elderly) of the Texas Human Resource Code, as amended.
  - (B) Chapter 112 (Developmental Disabilities) of the Texas Human Resource Code, as amended.
  - (C) Chapter 301 (Fair Housing Practices) of the Texas Property Code, as amended.
  - (D) Chapter 92 (Residential Tenancies) of the Texas Property Code, as amended.
- (4) Policies and procedures for contacting emergency personnel when health or safety of a resident or another individual is at risk.
- (5) Complaint process specific to the city and the boarding home facility.
- (6) Assisting residents with self-administration of medication.
- (7) Prevention, recognition, and reporting of injuries, incidents, and unusual accidents to residents and others in the boarding home facility.
- (8) Emergency, evacuation and disaster plans.

(9) Assisting residents with obtaining health and social services.

(10) Services provided by the boarding home facility, including:

(A) nutrition, meal preparation, and dietary needs, if the boarding home facility provides meal preparation;

(B) sanitation;

(C) laundry, if the boarding home facility provides laundry services; and

(D) house work, if the boarding home facility provides house work.

(b) Each permit holder and employee of a boarding home facility is subject to the following ongoing training requirements:

(1) Updates and changes in any policies and procedures within 10 days after the permit holder or employee becomes aware of the change.

(2) Orientation specific to the needs of each new resident within one business day of the resident moving into the facility.

(3) Orientation specific to the needs of a resident whose needs have changed due to injury, illness, hospitalization, or other circumstances that affect the resident's needs within one day after permit holder or employee becoming aware of the change.

#### **SEC. 20-497. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND HISTORY CHECKS.**

(a) A boarding home facility permit holder's permit to operate a boarding home may be denied, revoked, suspended, or denied for renewal if the permit holder has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in subsections (c) or (d) of this section or if the permit holder has in its employ any person convicted of a criminal offense listed in subsection (c) or (d).

(b) The permit holder must complete any state or federal request and release forms that are required to obtain a criminal history report for the permit holder. In addition to the permit fee, the permit holder will provide funding to the county/municipality in a manner specified by the county/municipality to cover any fees imposed by state or federal agencies for the report.

(c) The following histories will disqualify a permit holder from obtaining a permit to operate a boarding home or will serve as a bar to being employed by a boarding home facility:

- (1) Chapter 19, Texas Penal Code (criminal homicide);
- (2) Chapter 20, Texas Penal Code (kidnapping and unlawful restraint);
- (3) Section 21.02, Texas Penal Code (continuous sexual abuse of young child or children);
- (4) Section 21.08, Texas Penal Code (indecent exposure);
- (5) Section 21.11, Texas Penal Code (indecent with a child);
- (6) Section 21.12, Texas Penal Code (improper relationship between educator and student);
- (7) Section 21.15, Texas Penal Code (improper photography or visual recording);
- (8) Section 22.011, Texas Penal Code (sexual assault);
- (9) Section 22.02, Texas Penal Code (aggravated assault);
- (10) Section 22.021, Texas Penal Code (aggravated sexual assault);
- (11) Section 22.04, Texas Penal Code (injury to a child, elderly individual or disabled individual);
- (12) Section 22.041, Texas Penal Code (abandoning or endangering child);
- (13) Section 22.05, Texas Penal Code (deadly conduct);
- (14) Section 22.07, Texas Penal Code (terroristic threat);
- (15) Section 22.08, Texas Penal Code (aiding suicide);
- (16) Section 25.031, Texas Penal Code (agreement to abduct from custody);
- (17) Section 25.08, Texas Penal Code (sale or purchase of a child);
- (18) Section 28.02, Texas Penal Code (arson);
- (19) Section 29.02, Texas Penal Code (robbery);
- (20) Section 29.03, Texas Penal Code (aggravated robbery);
- (21) Section 30.02, Texas Penal Code (burglary);
- (22) Section 31, Texas Penal Code (theft) that is punishable as a felony;
- (23) Section 33.021, Texas Penal Code (online solicitation of a minor);
- (24) Section 34.02, Texas Penal Code (money laundering);
- (25) Section 35A.02, Texas Penal Code (Medicaid fraud);
- (26) Section 42.09, Texas Penal Code (cruelty to animals); or
- (27) A conviction under the laws of another state, federal law, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice for an offense containing elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense listed in this subsection.

(d) A person may not own a boarding home or be employed in a position the duties of which involve direct contact with a resident in a boarding home before the fifth anniversary of the date the person is convicted of any felony offense not listed in subsection C. or any of the following non-felony offenses:

- (1) An offense under Section 22.01, Penal Code (assault), that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor;
- (2) An offense under Section 32.45, Penal Code (misapplication of fiduciary property or property of a financial institution), that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or a felony;
- (3) An offense under Section 32.46, Penal Code (securing execution of a document by deception), that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or a felony;
- (4) An offense under Section 37.12, Penal Code (false identification as peace officer);
- (5) An offense under Section 42.01(a)(7), (8), or (9), Penal Code (disorderly conduct); or
- (6) A conviction under the laws of another state, federal law, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice for an offense containing elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense listed in this subsection.

(e) The permit holder must ensure that all employees, including volunteers who are not residents, have had a background check of conviction records, pending charges and disciplinary board decisions completed within the past two years, and is repeated every year thereafter, and that the individual is not disqualified under the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section. The permit holder will immediately discharge any employee or volunteer whose criminal history check reveals conviction of a crime that bars employment or volunteer service.

**SEC. 20-498. ASSESSMENT AND PERIODIC MONITORING OF RESIDENTS.**

(a) The permit holder, or a designee of the permit holder, shall:

- (1) Complete and document an initial assessment of a resident within 10 days after the date the resident begins residing at the facility, and conduct periodic monitoring thereafter, to ensure that the resident is capable of self-administering medication and completing basic elements of personal care as listed in subsections (b) and (c). The initial assessment will be used as a tool to determine if the needs of the resident can be provided by a boarding home facility or if the resident needs personal care services or medication administration that cannot be provided by the boarding home facility.
- (2) Complete and document an annual assessment and conduct periodic monitoring to ensure that each resident is capable of self-administering medication and completing basic elements of personal care as listed in subsection (b) and (c). The annual assessment will be used as a tool to determine if the needs of the resident can continue to be provided by a

boarding home facility or if the resident needs personal care services or medication administration that cannot be provided by the boarding home facility.

(b) Elements of the self-administration of medication to be assessed include the ability to perform each of the following tasks with little assistance:

- (1) Identifying the name of the medication.
- (2) Providing a reason for the medication (the owner or operator cannot force the resident to disclose a health condition that is the basis for the medication if the resident refuses).
- (3) Distinguishing color or shape.
- (4) Preparing the correct number of pills (dosage).
- (5) Confirming the time to take medications.
- (6) Reading labels.

(c) Elements of personal care to be assessed by the permit holder include but are not limited to the resident's ability to do the following:

- (1) Eat independently.
- (2) Bathe without assistance.
- (3) Dress without assistance.
- (4) Move and transfer independently.

(d) As a result of the initial assessment, or a subsequent annual assessment, if a permit holder finds that a resident is unable to perform basic elements of personal care as listed in Subsection (c), or is in a state of self-neglect, and believes that a higher level of care is needed, the owner or operator shall:

- (1) Contact the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services by phoning the state-wide intake division at 1-800-252-5400;
- (2) Notify the resident's guardian or legally authorized representative;
- (3) Notify a family member designated by the resident, the legal guardian, or the legally authorized representative; and
- (4) Contact the appropriate health or human services authority to advise that the resident requires services beyond what can be provided by the boarding home facility.

(c) A state of self-neglect does not exist if the resident receives outside professional services that meet the resident's need for personal care or self-administration of medication. In these cases, the resident can remain in the boarding home facility provided that all needs for personal care and self-administration of medication are met.

## **DIVISION V. ENFORCEMENT.**

### **SEC. 20-499. VIOLATIONS; PENALTY.**

(a) Regardless of a boarding home facility's status, a person who violates any provision of this article, or who fails to perform a duty required by this article, commits an offense.

(b) An owner, operator, employee, or other person in control of a permitted or unpermitted boarding home commits an offense if he or she knowingly operates an unsafe facility that represents an immediate threat to the health or safety of a resident, including a situation that has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a resident.

(c) An owner, operator, employee, or volunteer shall not operate a boarding home facility in a manner that results in illegal or nuisance activities including, but not limited to, disturbance of the peace, illegal drug activity, harassment of passers-by, public urination, theft, assault, vandalism, littering, illegal parking, loud noise, disorderly conduct, lewd conduct, or police detention or arrests.

(d) An offense under this article is punishable by a fine not to exceed:

(1) \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail in accordance with Section 260.0051 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended, if a person operates a boarding home facility in the city without a valid permit in violation of this article;

(2) \$2,000 if the provision violated governs fire safety, public health, or sanitation; or

(3) \$500 for all other offenses.

(e) A separate offense occurs each day or part of a day the violation is committed, continued, or permitted.

(f) Emergency closing order.

(1) If the director finds a boarding home facility operating in violation of the standards prescribed by this article and the violations create an immediate threat to the health and safety of a resident in the facility, the director may order immediate closing of all or part of the facility.

(2) The order of immediate closure under Section 20-499d)(1) is effective immediately on providing written notice of the order to the owner or operator by facsimile, email or hand-delivery.

(3) The order of closure of all or part of a boarding home facility is valid for 10 days after its effective date.

(4) If the permit holder does not promptly relocate the residents of the boarding home facility upon receiving the order of closure for that facility, the city shall provide

for the relocation of those residents. If possible, the city will relocate those residents to a boarding home facility in the city for which there is a current valid permit. The relocation may not be to a facility with a more restrictive environment unless all other reasonable alternatives are exhausted. The director is authorized to seek to recover the cost of relocating the residents from the owner and operator of the closed facility.

(5) The director and the Office of the City Manager, or other appropriate technical board or committee, shall expedite any hearing or decision involving an emergency closing order issued under this section.

(g) The city attorney may petition a district court or a county court at law for civil penalties and for injunctive relief to restrain a continuing violation of the standards or permit requirements for a boarding home facility under this article if the violations create an immediate threat to the health or safety of the facility residents.

(h) The city attorney may petition a district court or a county court at law for civil penalties and for injunctive relief to restrain the continuing operation of a facility that is providing services inconsistent with those prescribed by this article and state law until such time as said facility becomes appropriately licensed by the State of Texas or meets the requirements to obtain a permit under this article.

(i) The remedies and procedures in this section and in other laws are cumulative law, and the use of any particular remedy or procedure does not prevent the enforcement of any other law.

## **SECTION 2.**

That this ordinance shall be cumulative of all other ordinances of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, and shall not repeal any of the provisions of such ordinances, except in those instances where provisions of such ordinances are in direct conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

## **SECTION 3.**

That all rights or remedies of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the City Code, or any amendments thereto that have accrued at the time of the effective date of this ordinance; and as to such accrued violations, and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, same shall not be affected by this ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.



**SECTION 4.**

That it is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared void, ineffective or unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such voidness, ineffectiveness or unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation herein of any such void, ineffective or unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

**SECTION 5.**

That any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,0000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION 6.**

That the City Secretary of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, is hereby directed to publish this ordinance for two (2) days in the official newspaper of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, as authorized by the V.T.C.A. Local Government Code Subsection 52.013.

**SECTION 7.**

This ordinance shall take effect after adoption and publication as required by law on April 15, 2023.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

By: Melinda Ramos  
Melinda Ramos, Deputy City Attorney

Jannette S. Goodall  
Jannette S. Goodall (Jan 13, 2023 15:34 CST)  
Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary

Adopted: January 10, 2023

Effective: April 15, 2023

