

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE ALPHARETTA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS TO APPLY TO SHORT-TERM RENTALS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia (the “City Council”) are charged with the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Alpharetta; and

WHEREAS, in the interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, the City Council desires to exercise its authority to adopt an ordinance regulating short-term rentals; and

WHEREAS, appropriate notice and hearing on the ordinance contained herein have been carried out according to general and local law.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. The language attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein, is hereby adopted and approved, and shall be codified as Article XV in Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances.

Section 2. All other ordinances shall continue in full force and effect and shall remain unaffected, except where such ordinance, or part thereof, conflicts herewith, in which case such ordinance, or part thereof, is hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is the express intent of the City Council of Alpharetta, Georgia that this Ordinance be consistent with both federal and state law. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately following the date of adoption.

SO ORDAINED, the _____ day of _____, 2024.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

CITY OF ALPHARETTA

By: _____
Jim Gilvin, Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Pro Tem Dan Merkel

Council Member Donald F. Mitchell

Council Member Brian Will

Council Member Douglas J. DeRito

Council Member John Hipes

Council Member Fergal M. Brady

(SEAL)

Attest:

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk

Molly Esswein, City Attorney

Exhibit "A"

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

Article XV in Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances

Sec. 10-430. – Purpose.

- a. The purpose of this Article is to establish standards for short-term rentals of privately owned residential structures rented to transient occupants, minimize adverse effects of short-term rental uses on surrounding residential properties and neighborhoods, and preserve the character of residential neighborhoods in which short-term rental use occurs.
- b. This Article is not intended to regulate hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfast establishments, or non-vacation type rental arrangements including, but not limited to, boardinghouses, lodging houses, or rooming houses.

Sec. 10-431. – Applicability.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any owner of any property within the City to rent, operate, or advertise a short-term rental of property in a residential zoning district, or property with a residential use thereon, contrary to the procedures and regulations established in this Article, other provisions of this Code, or any applicable state law. A license shall be required to lawfully rent, operate, or advertise any property for short-term rental. Properties receiving a license under this Article shall comply with all applicable requirements of this Article.
- b. The restrictions and obligations contained in this Article shall apply to short-term rental activity at all times during which any short-term rental is marketed or used as a short-term rental.
- c. The licensing of short-term rentals in accord with this Article shall not prevent enforcement of additional restrictions that may be contained in restrictive covenants or other private contractual agreements or arrangements. The City shall not be responsible for enforcement of such covenants, agreements, or arrangements.
- d. A property subject to this Article that has been advertised or listed via the internet or other media sources (e.g. www.vrbo.com, www.airbnb.com, etc.) for short-term rental shall be prima facie evidence the property is being used as a short-term rental.
- e. Short-term rental activity is otherwise impermissible unless in full compliance with the City's Code of Ordinances, to include the Unified Development Code.

Sec. 10-432. – 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.]

Bedroom: A room that meets the building code requirements to be used as a sleeping room and for no other primary purpose.

Managing agency or agent: A person, firm or agency representing an owner or owners of a short-term rental.

Noise Regulations: Those regulations contained in Article V of Chapter 26 of the Alpharetta Code of Ordinances.

Owner: A person that holds legal and/or equitable title to private property.

Person: A natural human being, estate, association, firm, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity.

Private: Intended for or restricted to the occupants and/or guests of his or her short-term rental; not for public use.

Rental Term: The period of time a responsible person rents or leases a short-term rental.

Responsible Person: an occupant of a short-term rental who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who is legally responsible for ensuring that all occupants and/or guests of the short-term rental comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject short-term rental.

Short-term Rental: an accommodation for transient guests, rented for the purpose of overnight lodging for a period of less than thirty (30) days. For the purposes of this definition, a short-term rental shall include all housing types but shall exclude Bed and Breakfast establishments and Boarding Houses, as they are defined by the Unified Development Code.

Sec. 10-433. – Property owners, local contact person, and responsible person.

a. Property Owners:

1. The owner and/or local contact person shall use reasonably prudent business practices to ensure the short-term rental is used in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the

subject short-term rental, and shall further use reasonably prudent business practices to ensure the occupants and/or guests of the short-term rental do not create noise in violation of the noise regulations of this Code or disturbances, engage in disorderly conduct, or violate any applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of the subject short-term rental.

b. Local Contact Person:

1. Each owner of a short-term rental shall designate a local contact person who has access and authority to assume management of the short-term rental and take remedial measures while the short-term rental is being rented to an occupant and/or guest. An owner of a short-term rental may designate himself or herself as the local contact person;
2. The local contact person shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
3. There shall be only one (1) designated local contact person for a short-term rental at any given time;
4. The duties of the local contact person are to:
 - a. Respond to the location of the short-term rental 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and within three (3) hours after being notified by a duly authorized representative of the City of the existence of a violation of this Article or any other provision of this Code, or any disturbance or complaint requiring immediate remedy or abatement regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants of the short-term rental. This is not intended to impose a duty to act as a peace officer or otherwise require the local contact person to place himself or herself in a perilous situation. Whether the local contact person shall be required to respond to the location of the short-term rental to address a violation, disturbance, or complaint shall be determined in the discretion of the City officer or employee responding to said violation, disturbance, or complaint. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as limiting the City or any officer or employee thereof in responding to any violation, disturbance, or complaint or taking any enforcement action under this Article;
 - b. Receive and accept service of any notice of violation related to the use or occupancy of the short-term rental; and
 - c. Monitor the short-term rental for compliance with this division.
5. An owner may retain a managing agent, managing agency, operator, or representative to serve as the local contact person to comply with the requirements of this Section, including, without limitation, the permitting of the short-term rental, the management of the short-term rental, and the compliance with the conditions of the short-term rental license. The owner of the short-term rental is responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Section and the failure of an agent,

representative, or local contact person to comply with this Section shall be deemed noncompliance by the owner; and

6. The owner must immediately notify the Community Development Director in writing upon a change of local contact person or the local contact person's telephone number. This notification will be on forms prescribed by the Community Development Department. The new, revised short-term rental license will not extend the expiration date of the original short-term rental license, will be issued for a fee as established by the City Council, and must be posted in the short-term rental within ten (10) days of any change of local contact person information and before occupants can rent or occupy the short-term rental. Failure to do so within fourteen (14) days after such change shall, unless such time limit is extended for good cause, be reason for revocation of a license granted pursuant to this Article.

c. Responsible Person:

1. Every short-term rental shall be rented to a designated responsible person. The owner of the short-term rental is responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Article, and the failure to ensure the short-term rental is rented to a designated responsible person shall be deemed noncompliance by the owner.

Sec. 10-434. – Licenses and transferability.

a. Required Licenses:

1. The owner shall pay the required occupation tax and shall comply with all applicable provisions of Article III of Chapter 42 of this Code;
2. The owner shall collect and remit lodging excise taxes as required by Article V of Chapter 42 of this Code and the Official Code of the State of Georgia;
3. The owner shall timely pay all property taxes owed for the real property on which the short-term rental is located;
4. No owner or local contact person of a short-term rental shall rent, lease, or otherwise exchange for compensation all or any portion of such short-term rental without first obtaining a short-term rental license from the City;
5. A separate short-term rental license shall be required for each structure used for short-term rental;
6. Short-term rental licenses may be issued only to single-family housing units. No short-term rental license shall be issued for apartments, tents, yurts, truck campers, trailers, or other similar portable shelters, but not including accessory dwelling units associated with a Dwelling, 'For-Sale', Detached/Attached as contemplated in the City's Unified Development Code;

7. An owner of a short-term rental, or their designated representative, shall submit an application for a short-term rental license to the Community Development Department on an annual basis. The application shall be furnished on a form specified by the City, accompanied by a non-refundable license fee as established in this Section. Such application shall include:
 - a. The complete street address of the property to be used as a short-term rental;
 - b. Ownership information, including the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of each person or entity with an ownership interest in the property to be used as a short-term rental, as well as proof of such ownership;
 - c. The name, address, telephone number, and email address of the local contact person for the short-term rental;
 - d. The number of bedrooms and approximate square footage in the short-term rental, and the maximum number of overnight and daytime occupants, as allowed by this Article;
 - e. A sworn statement from the applicant certifying that all designated bedrooms, including egress from all designated bedrooms, meet applicable safety code requirements, as required by Section 10-435(b);
 - f. The number and location of parking spaces allotted to the property to be used as a short-term rental, as required by Section 10-434(c)(7);
 - g. The owner's sworn acknowledgment that they have reviewed all regulations of the City pertaining to the operation of a short-term rental and understand the requirements for short-term rentals;
 - h. The local contact person's sworn acknowledgment that they have reviewed all regulations of the City pertaining to the operation of a short-term rental, understand the requirements for short-term rentals, and agree to perform the duties of the local contact person specified in this Article;
 - i. Acknowledgement that the owner or local contact person has or will post, at the short-term rental, the notice required in Section 10-435(a);
 - j. The owner's agreement to use his or her best efforts to assure that use of the premises by short-term rental occupants will not disrupt the neighborhood, and will not interfere with the rights of neighboring property owners to the quiet enjoyment of their properties;
 - k. Any other information that this Article requires the owner to provide to the City as part of an application for a short-term rental license;
 - l. Where the property to be used as a short-term rental is located within a platted subdivision, a written statement from the applicable homeowner's association ("HOA") and/or property owner's association ("POA") where the short-term rental is located confirming the use of the property as a short-term rental is in accordance with its bylaws and covenants; if there is not an active HOA or POA, or if there are no bylaws or covenants governing the

- property to be used as a short-term rental, the owner shall submit a sworn statement confirming that there are no bylaws or covenants applicable to the property to be used as a short-term rental. The property owner shall be responsible for notifying the City, in writing, should the bylaws or covenants of the HOA or POA be amended to prohibit or restrict short-term rentals; and
- m. In cases where the short-term rental has an on-site septic system, a performance evaluation from the Health Department verifying condition of the on-site sewage management system, except that such a performance evaluation shall not be required for renewal applications. In cases where the short-term rental is serviced by sewer, documentation from the applicable County or City department providing sewer to the rental property verifying sewer capacity, except that such documentation shall not be required for renewal applications.
8. Any false statements or false information provided in the application are grounds for denial or revocation of a license, including the denial of future applications.
9. Upon the filing of a completed license application, the Community Development Director, or his or her designee, shall review the application for compliance with the requirements of this Article. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of the completed application, the Community Development Director, or his or her designee, shall either issue a short-term rental license to the applicant or issue a written notice of denial. Any license issued shall include a unique license number. A short-term rental license shall be issued to an applicant unless:
- a. The applicant has had a short-term rental license revoked within the previous 12-month period;
 - b. The property taxes have not been paid and are delinquent;
 - c. The Health Department notifies the City of an inadequate septic system or other health concerns;
 - d. The HOA or POA of the relevant subdivision provides covenants or other legal documents indicating short-term rental is prohibited on the property or the City otherwise verifies short-term rental is prohibited on the property based on applicable covenants;
 - e. Issuance of a short-term rental license would not conform to conditions of zoning;
 - f. Issuance of a short-term rental license would not conform to the requirements or limitations for short-term rentals set forth in the Unified Development Code; or
 - g. The application does not meet the minimum requirements of this Article.
10. A decision to deny an application shall be issued in writing and may be appealed to the City Council. An appeal shall be filed with the Community Development

Director in writing within thirty (30) days of the decision to deny an application for a license. A hearing on the appeal of the denial shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.

b. License fee/renewal.

- a. The short-term rental license application and any renewal application shall be accompanied by an application fee as established by the City Council.
- b. All licenses granted under this Article shall expire on December 31st of each year. Applicants shall file a renewal application accompanied by the requisite renewal fee with the City on or before the second Monday in December of each year without penalty. If an application for renewal is submitted after the second Monday in December, a new application shall be required, as renewal eligibility will not be considered past this date.
- c. A short-term rental license is not transferrable. Should ownership of a short-term rental change, a new license application shall be required prior to any use of the property as a short-term rental.

c. All short-term rentals are subject to the following:

1. The owner or local contact person shall, by written agreement with the responsible person, limit overnight occupancy of the short-term rental to the specific number of overnight occupants designated in the short-term rental license application;
2. Any advertising of the short-term rental shall conform to information included in the short-term rental license and requirements of this Article, and shall include the short-term rental license number issued by the City, notification of the maximum occupancy, maximum number of vehicles allowed, and provisions regulating noise;
3. Occupancy for short-term rentals: the number of overnight occupants shall not exceed two (2) persons per bedroom, and shall meet all life-safety codes, but in no case shall rental occupancy exceed fifteen (15) overnight persons total. The maximum capacity shall be based on the number of bedrooms. All occupants, regardless of age, are counted as persons;
4. A bedroom shall be a room that is designed to be, or meets the building code requirements to be, used as a sleeping room and for no other primary purpose. Every bedroom shall have an emergency escape or rescue exit and a minimum ceiling height as follows:
 - a. Each bedroom shall have at least one (1) operable window or door for emergency escape or rescue that opens directly to the exterior of the residence. The emergency door or window shall be operable from the inside to provide a full, clear opening without the use of separate tools, and shall comply with all requirements of the International Residential Code ("IRC") as

were in effect on the date the short-term rental was issued a Certificate of Occupancy; and

- b. Bedroom ceilings shall comply with all requirements of the IRC as were in effect on the date the short-term rental was issued a Certificate of Occupancy.
5. The owner or local contact person shall, by written agreement with the responsible person, limit daytime occupancy of the short-term rental to the specific number of daytime occupants designated in the short-term rental license application, with the number of daytime occupants not to exceed four (4) guests in addition to the total number of allowed overnight occupants, but in no case shall the daytime occupancy of a short-term rental exceed nineteen (19) persons total. Overnight occupancy limitations shall apply between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM;
 6. Prior to permitting occupancy of a short-term rental by a transient occupant, the owner or the local contact person shall: (a) verify the rental is to a responsible person and obtain their name and address; (b) provide information about the short-term rental regulations to the responsible person; and (c) require written confirmation from the responsible person that he or she:
 - a. Has read the pertinent regulations;
 - b. Understands all applicable laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the short-term rental, including, but not limited to, the City's noise regulations;
 - c. Understands that they are bound to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations; and
 - d. Agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and agrees to be legally responsible for compliance by all occupants and/or guests of the short-term rental with all applicable laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the short-term rental, including, but not limited to, to the City's noise regulations.

This information shall be maintained by the owner or the local contact person for a period of one (1) year from the last day of each rental period.

7. Parked Vehicles:
 - a. Short-term rentals must have parking off the street sufficient for one (1) car for each bedroom being rented. Vehicles shall be parked only on designated hard surfaced areas with gravel, concrete or asphalt surfacing; and shall not be permitted outside such hard-surfaced areas (i.e. no parking in yards);
 - b. Required parking spaces must be located on the same property as the short-term rental; and
 - c. Vehicles shall not be parked on the City right-of-way or along any roadways at any time.
8. The owner and/or local contact person shall use best efforts to ensure that the occupants and/or guests of the short-term rental do not violate the noise regulations

set forth in Article V of Chapter 26 of this Code by notifying the occupants of the rules regarding short-term rentals and responding when notified that occupants are violating laws regarding their occupancy. Any violation of the noise regulations by a guest at a short-term rental shall be considered a violation under this Article. It is not intended that the owner and/or local contact person act as a peace officer or place himself or herself in harm's way;

d. Transferability:

1. No short-term rental license issued under this Article shall be transferred or assigned or used by any person other than the owner or local contact person to whom it is issued, or at any location other than the one for which it is issued.

Sec. 10-435. – Additional operational requirements and conditions.

a. Posted Information Notice:

1. Each short-term rental shall have a clearly visible and legible notice conspicuously posted within the short-term rental on or adjacent to the front door, containing the following information:
 - a. The name of the owner and local contact person of the short-term rental, and a telephone number at which that party may be reached on a 24-hour, 7 days a week, basis;
 - b. The name and address of the nearest hospital;
 - c. The maximum number of overnight occupants and/or daytime guests permitted to be at the short-term rental;
 - d. The maximum number of vehicles allowed to be parked on the property, including a sketch of the location(s) of the on-site parking spaces;
 - e. The trash pickup day and notification that trash and refuse shall not be left or stored on the exterior of the property unless it is placed in a curbside container, and that the curbside container shall not be placed sooner than 24 hours prior to the pickup day, and must be removed no later than 24 hours after pickup (If owner or operator provides daily trash removal then this notice is not necessary);
 - f. Notification that failure to conform to the parking and occupancy requirements of the short-term rental is a violation of this Article;
 - g. The times that quiet hours are to be observed per the noise regulations set forth in Article IV of Chapter 34 of this Code and a statement advising the occupant that any failure to comply with the noise regulations is a violation of this Article; and
 - h. A copy of the short-term rental license with the license number displayed.

b. Life Safety and Sanitation:

1. All designated bedrooms, including egress from all bedrooms, shall comply with all applicable safety codes as were in effect on the date the short-term rental was issued a Certificate of Occupancy.
2. Every bedroom, adjoining hallway, and common area shall be equipped with an operational smoke detector that meets current IRC standards and shall be maintained in good working order at all times. The placement and mounting of each smoke detector shall comply with all applicable requirements of the current IRC.
3. Each habitable floor shall be equipped with an operational carbon monoxide detector that meets applicable state law standards and shall be maintained in good working order at all times.
4. Each floor of the short-term rental shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher that is fully charged, not past expiration date, and that meets all National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, including those as set forth in NFPA 10: Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.
5. Private swimming pools shall comply with the current International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.
6. The owner and/or local contact person shall maintain a house number that is visible from the street at all times.

Sec. 10-436. – Suspension or revocation of license.

- a. Any false statements or false information provided in the application are grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of a short-term rental license, including the denial of future applications.
- b. Any violations or noncompliance with the provisions of this Article are grounds for denials, suspension, or revocation of a short-term rental license, including denial of future applications.
- c. *Discovery of an immediate health hazard.* Upon the discovery of an immediate health hazard to renters, the Community Development Director may suspend the short-term rental certificate until the hazard is remedied, as determined in the sole good faith discretion of the Community Development Director. If the hazard is not timely corrected, the short-term rental license may be revoked.
- d. Any suspension, revocation, or forfeiture of an issued license by the City Council shall occur only after notice and opportunity for a hearing before the City Council consistent with the procedures set forth in this Article. Reasons for suspension or revocation of a short-term rental license include, but are not limited to:

1. A short-term rental, its owner, local contact person, responsible person, or occupants are found to be in violation of this Article or in violation of the noise regulations set forth in Article V of Chapter 26 of this Code, subject to criminal citation, prosecution, and penalties as outlined in Section 10-437.
2. An applicant furnished fraudulent or untruthful information in the application for a license, or omitted information required in the application for a license, or failed to pay all fees, taxes, or other charges imposed under the provisions of this Article, in which case the short-term rental license shall be immediately revoked.
3. A short-term rental does not meet the licensing qualifications set forth in this Article at any time such knowledge becomes known to the Community Development Director, in which case the short-term rental license shall be immediately revoked.
4. A short-term rental has been used as a short-term rental during a period of suspension of a license, in which case the short-term rental license shall be immediately revoked.

Sec. 10-437. – Violation and penalties.

- a. Any violation of this Article, including any violation of the noise regulations set forth in Article V of Chapter 26 of this Code, shall subject the licensed individual to the following progressive actions by the City Council, except that a short-term rental license may be immediately suspended or revoked as provided in Section 10-436 upon notice and hearing:
 1. The first violation within a consecutive 12-month period shall result in a fine in municipal court and a written warning notice of violation upon a finding of guilt or plea of guilty or nolo contendere in municipal court.
 2. The second violation within a consecutive 12-month period shall result in a fine in municipal court and a license suspension for a period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days upon a finding of guilt or plea of guilty or nolo contendere in municipal court.
 3. The third violation within a consecutive 12-month period shall result in a fine in municipal court and the revocation of the short-term rental license upon a finding of guilt or plea of guilty or nolo contendere in municipal court, and neither the owner nor local contact person shall be eligible to reapply for a license for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of revocation.
- b. Nothing contained in this Subsection shall be construed to preclude the City Council from suspending or revoking a license for a period exceeding those periods identified in Sections 10-437(a)(1),(2), or (3) or from revoking the license if the City Council determines in its discretion that such action is necessary and in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.

- c. In all cases, the mandatory suspension period may be mitigated by the City Council upon presentation of evidence that the licensee established practices and procedures to prevent the violation from occurring.
- d. Enforcement action may be brought against any individual, including, but not limited to, the owner, local contact person, responsible person, or occupants and/or guest(s) of a short-term rental for violations of this Article and any other provision of this Code. Any violation of the provisions of this Article shall be enforced in municipal court to the full extent authorized by law, with a finding of guilt or plea of guilty or nolo contendere subjecting the licensed individual to the same administrative sanctions as set forth in Section 10-437(a)(1-3) regardless of whether the finding of guilt as against or the plea of guilty or nolo contendere was by the owner, local contact person, responsible person, or occupants and/or guest(s).
- e. Each day the short-term rental is marketed or rented for overnight accommodation without the necessary short-term rental license required under this Article shall constitute a separate violation.
- f. Failure of the owner or local contact person to respond as provided in Section 10-433 regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants and/or guest(s) of the short-term rental in a timely and appropriate manner shall be grounds for imposition of penalties as set forth in this Article. It is not intended that an owner or local contact person act as a peace officer or place himself or herself in an at-risk situation.
- g. In addition to the penalties described above, any person violating the provisions of this Article by operating a short-term rental without a valid short-term rental license may be prosecuted according to the general penalties described in Section 1-8 of this Code.

Sec. 10-438. – Enforcement

- a. The City Public Safety Department and City Code Enforcement shall have authority to enforce this Article.
- b. Any complaints received by the City regarding a short-term rental may result in a notice of the complaint being directed to the local contact person designated in the short-term rental license, which may result in direction that the local contact person respond to the short-term rental as provided in Section 10-433(b)(4).
- c. Notice of any citations issued for violations of this Article shall be provided to the local contact person designated in the short-term rental license within one (1) week of the issuance of such citations.

Sec. 10-439. – Hearing on denial, suspension or revocation.

- a. Upon receipt of a timely appeal (accompanied by a fee established by the City Council) of an administrative denial, upon presentation of evidence to the Community Development

Director of a violation of this Article, or upon a showing of any of the other occurrences set forth in Section 10-436, the Community Development Director shall schedule a hearing before the City Council and provide written notice to the adverse party of the time, place and date of the scheduled hearing by personal delivery or certified mail. The Community Development Director shall also state in the written notice the basis for the administrative denial or the violation or occurrence alleged that forms the basis for the denial or potential suspension or revocation. After notice of hearing, matters scheduled for hearing may only be continued by agreement of the City Attorney and the adverse party and/or counsel for the adverse party.

- b. The City Council shall have the duty of conducting hearings concerning the denial, revocation, or suspension of a license. The standard of proof on all issues in the hearing shall be a preponderance of the evidence and a determination will be made on the basis of the evidence presented at the hearing.
- c. At the hearing, after presentation of the case against the adverse party, the adverse party will have an opportunity to present his/her case, to rebut the allegations made against him/her, and present whatever defenses he/she has. The adverse party shall have the right to be represented by an attorney, at the expense of the adverse party, and to present evidence and cross-examine opposing witnesses.
- d. At the conclusion of the hearing, the findings and conclusions of the City Council shall be forwarded to the Community Development Director, and it shall be the duty of the Community Development Director to provide written notification via personal delivery or certified mail to the adverse party of the decision of the City Council.
- e. The decision of the City Council shall be final unless appealed to the Superior Court of Fulton County within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Community Development Director's written notification to the adverse party of the City Council's decision.
- f. For purposes of this Section, notice shall be deemed delivered when personally served or when served by certified mail postage prepaid within three (3) days after the date of deposit in the United States Mail.