

**ORDINANCE NO: O-2025<sup>46</sup>**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NOS. O-2013-20 AND O-2012-11;  
ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC  
AMUSEMENTS AND OTHER APPLICABLE EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES; AUTHORITY;  
AREA; DEFINITIONS; PROHIBITIONS; EXCEPTIONS; ENFORCEMENT,  
PUNISHMENT, PENALTIES AT LAW AND EQUITY; INCLUSION IN PHARR CODE OF  
ORDINANCES; INCORPORATION OF OTHER ORDINANCES; REPEALING  
CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pharr hereby acts in exercising its legislative powers to define acts and prohibit the commission of those acts that may be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Pharr or persons located within its corporate boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pharr hereby acts to further the interests of the residents and potential attendees of related entertainment and public amusements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF PHARR, THAT:**

**SECTION 1: AUTHORITY AND AREA**

**A. Legal Authority**

The provisions contained herewith are allowed pursuant to the legislative powers of a home rule municipality, and are in accordance with Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 215, Subchapter 0, §215.071–215.075.

**B. Jurisdiction and Enforcement**

1. The City of Pharr hereby adopts and enacts this Ordinance that shall be enforceable within the municipality's municipal boundaries and extra-territorial jurisdiction.
2. This Ordinance and provisions herewith shall be included in the Pharr Code of Ordinances.
3. As matters related to the public's health, safety, and welfare is of the utmost concern, the City of Pharr shall be authorized to enforce, through its City Attorney, this Ordinance as may be allowed by law herein.

**SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS**

- **Public Amusement:** Any event or activity that may be an open-air or tent show, carnival, circus, exhibition of common showmen, show, exhibition of natural or artificial curiosities, caravans, menageries, and musical exhibitions or performances.
- **Open-Air or Tent Show:** Any exhibition, event, or activity in open air or in tents.

- **Carnival:** An organized activity involving any amusement rides, games, or other festivities.
- **Circus:** An organized activity involving any trained animals, acrobats, or clowns.

## **SECTION 3: APPLICATION AND OTHER PROCEDURES**

### **A. Application Deadlines**

#### **General Public Amusements**

Not less than **forty-five (45)** days before the date on which a public amusement is to be held, any persons or representatives of the organized activity shall file a permit or license application with the Special Events Department.

#### **Public Schools and Churches**

Any public school or church organization shall, not less than **seven (7) days** before the date on which a public event is to be held, file a permit or license application with the Special Events Department.

### **B. Application Fee**

- **Standard Fee:** \$500 non-refundable application fee made payable to the City of Pharr.
- **Exemption:** The \$500 application fee does not apply to public school or church events.

### **C. Required Application Materials**

Along with the application fee (where applicable), the application shall include the following information and materials:

1. **Contact information:** Name, address, telephone numbers of all representatives, promoters, owners, performers, and vendors associated with the activity
2. **Financial statement:** Itemizing the funds being utilized to finance the activity
3. **Property Information:**
  - Location and description of the property where the event will be held
  - Name, address, and telephone numbers of the property owners
4. **Property Agreement:** Copy of the agreement between the property owners and event representatives or promoters
5. **Event Schedule:** The dates and times of the activity

6. **Capacity:** The maximum number of persons the activity will allow to attend on each day
7. **Clean-up Plan:** Specific, written description of the plan that will govern all clean-up procedures for the activity in compliance with legal and health standards
8. **Safety Plans:** Specific, written description of the plan governing:
  - Fire safety and smoke control
  - Traffic management
  - Parking arrangements
  - Security hazards and prevention
9. **Parking Plan:** Specific, written description of the plan governing the event and activity parking locations used solely for parking
10. **Medical Care Plan:** Specific, written description of the preparations made to provide adequate medical and nursing care during the event
11. **Insurance:** Copy of the general and/or special liability insurance policy and declarations and/or bonds of **\$1,000,000** covering event personnel, visitors, invitees, and participants.

#### **D. Review Process**

Following timely submission of the application fee and all required materials, the application shall be subject to review by:

1. Director or designee of the Code Department
2. Director or designee of Development Services
3. Director or designee of Parks & Recreation
4. Director or designee of Health Department
5. Fire Chief or designee
6. Police Chief or designee

#### **E. Decision Authority**

The reviewing personnel shall submit to the City Manager a report stating individual recommendations including approval, denial, conditions, or other fees required for compliance or to reimburse the City for costs. The City Manager shall have final authority in consideration of the application.

## **F. Approval Criteria**

Factors considered for approval shall include:

1. Adequacy of the event location
2. Dates and times of the activity and potential conflicts with city-sponsored events
3. Maximum expected attendance
4. Reasonableness of clean-up procedures
5. Reasonableness of plans for fire, traffic, security, food, and parking
6. Adequacy of medical and nursing care preparations
7. Sufficiency of liability insurance.

## **SECTION 4: PROHIBITION; CONSPIRACY TO CIRCUMVENT; EXCEPTIONS**

### **A. Prohibited Activities**

1. **False Information:** It is unlawful to submit false information or materials, or to conduct an event without final written approval and necessary permits from the City of Pharr.
2. **Conspiracy to Circumvent:** It is unlawful to conspire to circumvent this Ordinance by allowing unauthorized use, transfer, or possession of a permit, license, or other authorization.

### **B. Exceptions**

1. This Ordinance does not apply to events contracted or sponsored by the City of Pharr.
2. Public school and church events are exempt from the \$500 application fee shall and shall be handled through the Special Events Department.

## **SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT; PUNISHMENT; PENALTIES**

### **A. Enforcement Methods**

Violations may be enforced by the City Attorney and may include:

- Abatement, removal, closure, or seizure of objects
- Suspension or cancellation of permits
- Other relief as necessary.

## B. Penalties

1. **Criminal Violations:** Class C misdemeanors
2. **Civil penalties:** May reach \$1,000 per violation.
3. **Multiple Prosecutions:** Violators may be prosecuted under all applicable laws if conduct also constitutes an offense under another law.

## SECTION 6: INCORPORATION OF OTHER ORDINANCES

This Ordinance incorporates all other ordinances related to similar events. Any conflicting ordinance is repealed to the extent of the conflict. All other provisions remain in full force and effect.

## SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

## SECTION 8: PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval on three separate readings in accordance with Section 8, Article 3 of the Charter of the City of Pharr, Texas. Publication may also be in caption form as allowed under Section 9 of the Pharr City Charter.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE FIRST READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October,  
2025.**



CITY OF PHARR

AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE SECOND READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2025.



CITY OF PHARR

  
AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK

PASSED AND APPROVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.



CITY OF PHARR

  
AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK