



CITY OF GUSTINE

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INFORMATIONAL:
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED BUSINESS LICENSE QUESTIONS

Do I need to get a license for my type of business?

Yes. City code finds it unlawful for any person to commence, establish, maintain, or carry on any business enterprise whatever in the city without first obtaining a license from the city. This includes businesses located outside City limits that do business within the City, as well as those with locations inside the City limits. The approval process for these two types differs but both require approved licenses prior to the start of any business activity.

How long does my license last?

The annual license for the City runs with the City fiscal year, which is currently July 1 to June 30 of each year. If you begin your business later in the year, or pay your renewal late, the license still expires at the end of the fiscal year.

What will my license cost if I start later in the year?

The City does not prorate or refund license fees. However, the City reduces its portion of the business license fee for brand new business started more than halfway through the year fiscal year (although the entire State portion of the fees). For information, check with City Hall for the current business license fees approved by City Council.

Do I still need a license since I am only doing one job in Gustine?

Yes. The licenses for the City are not pro-rated or based on number of jobs. While you may have just one job in the City currently, if you get additional customers, you do not pay additional fees for the remainder of the license period if your license remains in good standing and you do not request any changes to your license or require additional services.

Do vendors for one-day events at the City require licenses?

The City offers a one-day business license *for select pre-approved events, under City discretion*. These licenses are not available for one-day jobs but only for participants in specific, pre-approved event. Businesses with a one-year license are already covered and do not need to also pay for an event license. However, businesses that opt for a one-day license and then decide to attend multiple events, do not receive any refund or discount on licenses.

Why do I need to get inspections of the facility I am using prior to opening?

Inspections of the premises benefit not only members of the public who will visit but also the business owner. Inspections can bring to a business owner's attention unsafe conditions at the location that he or she was not aware of that could result in harm to property and people—for which the business owner can be liable.

Can I run different businesses under one license?

The City license allows you to run one business under each license. The license will specify the location, type of business, hours of operation and other information specific to that particular business. Each distinct type of business requires a separate business license.

I have a license but want to do something else at the location. Do I need a new license?

If the business you want to begin doing differs from that which you listed on your license, then you need to come to City Hall and first get approval for the new type of activity. All fees for licensing apply as if this were a new business. For instance, if you own a restaurant and want to change it to a convenience store, you must come in for a new license and complete the process. When in doubt, contact the City to find out the requirements before you make any changes from your original license application.