



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Re: Amending Chapter 13 of the City Code relating to Pawnbrokers

Executive Summary

At the request of Council member Trapp, an ordinance has been prepared to amend Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to pawnbrokers.

Discussion

Council Member Trapp requested an ordinance be prepared to revise the licensing regulations related to pawnbrokers in order to aid in the investigation and recovery of stolen property and as a deterrent to crime.

Amendments to the pawn shop ordinance were previously discussed at two Council meetings under agenda number B61-16. Police department staff was present for the 03/21/16 discussion. The proposed pawnbroker ordinance was referred to the Substance Abuse Advisory Council (SAAC) by Councilman Michael Trapp for community input on revisions to the ordinance.

Police department staff met with the SAAC for two monthly meetings. The pawnbroker ordinance was reviewed and discussed. The SAAC organized a public hearing on the pawnbroker ordinance on 09/07/16. Several business owners and citizens provided comments at the public hearing. Councilman Trapp organized a theft prevention meeting on 10/13/16 with business owners and citizens. Feedback from all of these meetings was incorporated into the proposed revisions to the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance amendments include the following:

- Apply to pawnbrokers as well as select secondhand dealers
- Add a seven (7) business day waiting period for jewelry made of precious metals/stones and a forty-eight (48) hour hold for specified items as listed in 13-76
- Add electronic reporting by businesses to Leads Online
- Require video or pictures of seller and property and
- Require businesses to gather some additional information when they receive property.

These changes will increase the police department's ability to collect evidence which will help identify suspects and property from theft and burglary cases. It will also help decrease the number of businesses where burglars and thieves can dispose of stolen property in the City of Columbia. The desired outcome of this amendment is to assist the police department's efforts to hold offenders accountable, return property to citizens who are victims of theft and reduce property crimes such as thefts and burglaries.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not Applicable

Long-Term Impact: Not Applicable

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
06/06/2016	B61-16: Withdrawn from agenda by Council member Trapp.
03/21/2016	B61-16: Second read by Council, tabled until 06/06/2016 meeting.
03/07/2016	B61-16: First read by Council.
01/18/2016	Request of Council member Trapp at council meeting.
05/18/2015	Request of Council member Trapp at council meeting.

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends passage of the legislation.