

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2025-619

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 5-46 AND 5-80 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, RELATING TO DANCE HALLS THAT IMPOSE A DRESS CODE; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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WHEREAS, on June 17, 2025, Council Members Edward Pollard, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, and Letitia Plummer submitted a proposed item pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the City Charter, seeking to amend Sections 5-46 and 5-80 of the City of Houston, Code of Ordinances ("City Code"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed City Code amendment seeks to:

- (1) Amend Section 5-46 to include a dress code definition; and
- (2) Amend Section 5-80 to require a dance hall license holder who imposes a dress code for patrons to post the complete dress code in a conspicuous location at or near the entrance of the dance hall so that it may be easily viewed by the public during the dance hall's hours of operation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 23, Section 2-2 of the City Code, on June 24, 2025, the City of Houston Legal Department distributed a memorandum to the agenda director and sponsoring Council Members determining the proposed agenda item is lawful; and

WHEREAS, Rule 23, Section 2-2 of the City Code directs that upon a determination that the proposed agenda item is lawful, the agenda director shall place a caption for the proposed item on the regular City Council agenda within the next two regular City Council meetings after the agenda director's receipt of the Legal Department determination; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. That Section 5-46 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended by adding, in the appropriate alphabetical order position, a new definition that reads as follows:

"*Dress code* means a set standard of rules specifying the required manner of dress an attendee must comply with for entry."

Section 3. That Section 5-80 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"A license issued under this division shall be posted by the licensee in a conspicuous place at or near the entrance to the dance hall so that it may be easily viewed by the public during the dance hall's hours of operation. Additionally, if the owner, operator, or licensee requires a dress code for entry to a night club or dance hall, the complete dress code must be posted in a conspicuous place at or near the entrance to the dance hall so that it may be easily viewed by the public during the dance hall's hours of operation. If a dance hall or establishment does not have a dress code policy displayed near the entrance, it will be interpreted that there is no dress code, and no dress code policy shall be enforced."

Section 4. That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to direct the publisher of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, (the "Code") to make such nonsubstantive changes to the Code as are necessary to conform to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance, and also to make such changes to the provisions adopted in this Ordinance to conform them to the provisions and conventions of the published Code.

Section 5. That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

Section 6. That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; however, in the event that the Mayor fails to sign this Ordinance within five days after its passage and adoption, it shall take effect in accordance with Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter.

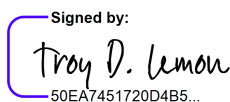
PASSED AND ADOPTED ON 07/16/2025

APPROVED ON _____

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6, Houston City Charter, the effective date of the foregoing Ordinance is: 07/22/2025.

ATTEST:

CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
Signed by:

Signed by:

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City Secretary of the City of Houston

Mayor of the City of Houston

PREPARED BY:

DocuSigned by:

050FB355DA5F447...

Senior Assistant City Attorneys
RVG/DRF/kro 7/3/2025
Requested by Council Members Edward Pollard,
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, and Letitia Plummer
pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the City Charter
L.D. File No. LD-GC-0000000557

