

CHAPTER 122

PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS

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122.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to protect residents of the City against fraud, unfair competition and intrusion into the privacy of their homes by licensing and regulating peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants.

122.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. “Peddler” means (a) any person carrying goods or merchandise who sells or offers for sale for immediate delivery such goods or merchandise from house to house or upon the public street; or (b) any person who performs or offers to perform repairs and services of any kind, for hire, from house to house or upon the public street.
2. “Solicitor” means any person who solicits or attempts to solicit from house to house or upon the public street any contribution or donation or any order for (a) goods, or merchandise to be delivered at a future date; or (b) repairs or services of any kind, for hire, to be performed at some future date.
3. “Transient merchant” means any person who engages in a temporary or itinerant merchandising or repair or service business and in the course of such business hires, leases or occupies any building or structure whatsoever, or who operates out of a vehicle which is parked anywhere within the City limits. Temporary association with a local merchant, dealer, trader or auctioneer, or conduct of such transient business in connection with, as a part of, or in the name of any local merchant, dealer, trader or auctioneer does not exempt any person from being considered a transient merchant.

122.03 LICENSE REQUIRED. Any person engaging in peddling, soliciting or in the business of a transient merchant in the City without first obtaining a license as herein provided is in violation of this chapter.

122.04 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. An application in writing shall be filed with the Clerk for a license under this chapter. Such application shall set forth the applicant’s name, permanent and local address and business address if any, physical description, age, height, weight, color of hair and eyes, sex and driver’s license and social security number. The application shall also set forth the applicant’s employer, if any, and the employer’s address, the nature of the applicant’s business, the last three places of such business and the

length of time sought to be covered by the license. The application shall state whether or not applicant has a police or criminal record (other than traffic offense) and if so, set forth same in detail. Any manner of police or criminal record (other than traffic offense) shall make it mandatory for the Clerk to refuse to issue a license hereunder. An application fee of two dollars (\$2.00) shall be paid at the time of filing such application to cover the cost of investigating the facts stated therein.

122.05 LICENSE FEES. The following license fees shall be paid to the Clerk prior to the issuance of any license.

1. For each day or part thereof, up to a week..... \$ 2.00 per day
2. For one week, up to a month \$ 10.00 per week
3. For one month \$ 20.00

For longer than one month, all fees shall be computed by first computing the monthly fee, then the weekly fee, then the daily fee, and the sum of these fees shall be the fee charged.

122.06 BOND REQUIRED. Before a license under this chapter is issued, each applicant shall post a bond of \$100.00 with the Clerk. Said bond shall be either a cash bond or a commercial surety company bond satisfactory to the Clerk. Such bond shall be conditioned to indemnify and to pay the City for any penalties or costs occasioned by the enforcement of this chapter, and shall not be retired until after a lapse of thirty (30) days from the expiration of each license. Any applicant for a transient merchant's license shall provide to the Clerk evidence that the applicant has filed a bond with the Secretary of State in accordance with Chapter 9C of the Code of Iowa.

122.07 LICENSE ISSUED. If the Clerk finds the application is completed in conformance with the requirements of this chapter, the facts stated therein are found to be correct and the license fee paid, a license shall be issued immediately.

122.08 DISPLAY OF LICENSE. Each solicitor or peddler shall keep such license in possession at all times while doing business in the City and shall, upon the request of prospective customers, exhibit the license as evidence of compliance with all requirements of this chapter. Each transient merchant shall display publicly such merchant's license in the merchant's place of business.

122.09 LICENSE NOT TRANSFERABLE. Licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter are not transferable in any situation and are to be applicable only to the person filing the application.

122.10 TIME RESTRICTION. All peddler's and solicitor's licenses shall provide that said licenses are in force and effect only between the hours of nine o'clock (9:00) a.m. and six o'clock (6:00) p.m.

122.11 REVOCATION OF LICENSE. After notice and hearing, the Clerk may revoke any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. Fraudulent Statements. The licensee has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of the business.

2. Violation of Law. The licensee has violated this chapter or has otherwise conducted the business in an unlawful manner.

3. Endangered Public Welfare, Health or Safety. The licensee has conducted the business in such manner as to endanger the public welfare, safety, order or morals.

122.12 EXPIRATION OF LICENSE. All licenses granted under this chapter shall expire at 6:00 p.m. of the last day for which the license is issued.

122.13 NOTICE. The Clerk shall send a notice to the licensee at the licensee's local address, not less than ten (10) days before the date set for a hearing on the possible revocation of a license. Such notice shall contain particulars of the complaints against the licensee, the ordinance provisions or State statutes allegedly violated, and the date, time and place for hearing on the matter.

122.14 HEARING. The Clerk shall conduct a hearing at which both the licensee and any complainants shall be present to determine the truth of the facts alleged in the complaint and notice. Should the licensee, or authorized representative, fail to appear without good cause, the Clerk may proceed to a determination of the complaint.

122.15 RECORD AND DETERMINATION. The Clerk shall make and record findings of fact and conclusions of law, and shall revoke a license only when upon review of the entire record the Clerk finds clear and convincing evidence of substantial violation of this chapter or State law.

122.16 APPEAL. If the Clerk revokes or refuses to issue a license, the Clerk shall make a part of the record the reasons therefor. The licensee, or the applicant, shall have a right to a hearing before the Council at its next regular meeting. The Council may reverse, modify or affirm the decision of the Clerk by a majority vote of the Council members present and the Clerk shall carry out the decision of the Council.

122.17 EFFECT OF REVOCATION. Revocation of any license shall bar the licensee from being eligible for any license under this chapter for a period of one year from the date of the revocation.

122.18 REBATES. There shall be no rebate or refund of license fees because of surrender or revocation of a license before expiration of the full period for which it was issued.

122.19 LICENSE EXEMPTIONS. The following are excluded from the application of this chapter.

1. Newspapers. Persons delivering, collecting for or selling subscriptions to newspapers.
2. Club Members. Members of local civic and service clubs, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America and similar organizations.
3. Local Residents and Farmers. Local residents and farmers who offer for sale their own products.
4. Students. Students representing the Highland Community School District conducting projects sponsored by organizations recognized by the school.

5. Route Sales. Route delivery persons who only incidentally solicit additional business or make special sales.
6. Resale or Institutional Use. Persons customarily calling on businesses or institutions for the purposes of selling products for resale or institutional use.

122.20 CHARITABLE AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. Authorized representatives of charitable or nonprofit organizations operating under the provisions of Chapter 504 of the *Code of Iowa* desiring to solicit money or to distribute literature are exempt from the operation of Sections 122.04 and 122.05. All such organizations are required to submit in writing to the Clerk the name and purpose of the cause for which such activities are sought, names and addresses of the officers and directors of the organization, the period during which such activities are to be carried on, and whether any commissions, fees or wages are to be charged by the solicitor and the amount thereof. If the Clerk finds that the organization is a bona fide charity or nonprofit organization the Clerk shall issue, free of charge, a license containing the above information to the applicant. In the event the Clerk denies the exemption, the authorized representatives of the organization may appeal the decision to the Council, as provided in Section 122.16 of this chapter.