

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65858,  
EXTENDING UNTIL APRIL 15, 2025 A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ALL NEW  
TOBACCO RETAILERS WITHIN THE CITY OF RICHMOND WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
CITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 16, 2024 (ORDINANCE NO. 03-24 N.S.)**

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**WHEREAS**, the City is concerned about this recent proliferation of tobacco retailer businesses, locations of tobacco retailer businesses, and the harmful effects of tobacco on the health, safety, and welfare of City residents and especially youth;

**WHEREAS**, this temporary moratorium will provide staff with the opportunity to study various options to regulate tobacco retailer businesses, including potentially requiring a use permit for such uses;

**WHEREAS**, Government Code section 65858 provides that to protect against any current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, the City Council may adopt as an urgency measure an interim ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated general plan, specific plan, or zoning proposal that the City plans to study;

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2024, the City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S. establishing a 45-day moratorium on the approval of granting of any permit, license, and land use entitlement for any new tobacco retailer within the City of Richmond to allow the City time to study viable solutions and municipal code amendments necessary to reasonably regulate tobacco retailers in the City of Richmond as more fully described in that ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, the 45-day moratorium will expire on May 31, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Government Code Section 65858(d), the City has taken steps to alleviate the conditions that necessitated the adoption of Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S. and has issued a report relative to the steps taken, which is attached and incorporated by reference;

**WHEREAS**, such an extension of an urgency measure requires a four-fifths vote (6 votes) of the City Council for adoption and the extension shall be of no further force and effect than ten months and fifteen days from the date of the 45-day moratorium's expiration, May 31, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Section 65858(c) provides that the legislative body shall only extend any interim ordinance pursuant to this section if the ordinance contains legislative findings that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and that the approval of additional use permits, variances, building permits, or any other applicable entitlement for use which is required in order to comply with a zoning ordinance would result in that threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

**WHEREAS**, due notice of the hearing requesting this temporary moratorium has been given as required by Government Code Section 65090; and,

**WHEREAS**, for reasons set forth above and in Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S., which recitals are incorporated herein by reference, this ordinance is declared by the City Council to be necessary, as without this ordinance, the approval of additional licenses, permits, and land use entitlements for any new tobacco retailers or the like would result in a current, immediate, and direct threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and the recitals above and in

Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S. taken together constitute the City Council's statements of the reasons constituting such necessity and urgency.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Richmond does hereby ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That the above recitals and recitals contained in Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S. are true and correct and are adopted as the City Council's findings.

**SECTION 2: Purpose and Authority.**

In the interest of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the City of Richmond, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to place a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any new permit, license, or other entitlement for any tobacco retailer in the City of Richmond. The City Council has authority to adopt this ordinance pursuant to California Constitution Article XI, Section 7 and Government Code section 65858 as an urgency measure prohibiting any use that may be in conflict with a contemplated general plan, specific plan, or zoning proposal that the City is considering or studying.

**SECTION 3: Findings.**

All provisions of Ordinance No. 03-24 N.S. shall remain in full force and effect during the extended term of the moratorium. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community and pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 65858, Section 7 of Ordinance No.03-24 N.S. is revised to reflect that the moratorium shall be extended for a period of ten months and fifteen days from the original expiration date and shall be set to expire, and be of no further force and effect, on midnight, April 15, 2025.

**Section 4: Environmental Review/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).**

This ordinance is intended to preserve the status quo, and it will not cause a direct physical change in the environment, nor a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The enactment of this ordinance, therefore, does not constitute the approval of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and it is exempt from CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code § 21065, CEQA Guidelines §§ 15060(c),(2)(3); 15061(b)(3); 15064(d)(3); 15378(a).)

**Section 5: Severability.**

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable. This City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed and the balance of the ordinance be enforced.

**Section 6: Effective Date.**

This ordinance, passed by at least a four-fifths vote of the City Council, is declared to be an urgency ordinance for preserving the public health, safety and welfare and shall take effect and be enforced immediately upon adoption.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance of the Council of the City of Richmond was duly passed and adopted at a meeting thereof held May 21, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTION:

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Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney