



City of Dallas

Omnibus Ordinance Review

**Quality of Life, Arts, and
Culture Committee
May 19, 2025**

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Background: Why a Code Cleanup?



- Dallas City Code spans decades of ordinances—some outdated or unenforceable.
- State and federal laws have changed, preempting local regulations in several areas.
- Departments identified inconsistencies, outdated language, and redundancies.
- Goal: Align City ordinances with current laws, practices, and organizational structure.



What is the Omnibus Ordinance?



- A single ordinance updating, repealing, or clarifying sections across 30+ chapters.
- Targets duplicative, preempted, outdated, or unenforced code provisions.
- Streamlines regulations while preserving key City authority and responsibilities.



Why This Matters Now



- Outdated or preempted ordinances pose legal risks to the City.
- Unenforced laws create confusion for the City and residents.
- Aligning with state/federal law ensures enforceability and compliance.
- Modernized code supports clearer service delivery and enforcement authority.



Review Process and Department Collaboration



- Multi-departmental review: CCS, FRM, CCX, SAN, 311, etc.
- Over 150+ code sections screened for enforceability and legal standing.
- Final legal vetting done in coordination with City Attorney's Office.



Highlights of Outdated or Unused Provisions Removed



- Ch. 13A: Dallas Transit System (pre-DART) repealed.
- Ch. 39: Railroad regulation eliminated (federally preempted).
- Other deletions: Loan brokers, private detectives, tree/utility rules from 1940s.



Modernizing City Practices



- Ch. 2: Reflects shift in real estate services to Transportation & Public Works.
- Ch. 18: Updates on trash collection, bulky waste, and franchise rules.
- Ch. 12B & 28: ATM siting and parking enforcement updated for current operations.



Changes from COVID-Era & Legal Challenges



- Ordinance 32346 (eviction notice requirement) repealed—no longer enforced by JP courts.
- Chapter 20 (earned paid sick time) repealed—state law preempts.
- Chapter 52: Removes rest break mandate due to legal uncertainty.



New Health and Safety Standards



- Food establishments now required to display allergen awareness posters.
- Dog-friendly patio provisions removed to align with revised state food codes.



9 Major Food Allergens



Peanuts



Crustacean Shellfish



Eggs



Tree Nuts



Wheat



Fish



Milk



Soy



Sesame



Simplification and Clarity



- Chapter 1: Clarified definitions for 'city health officer' and removed 'county' definition.
- Chapter 43: Streamlined permit processes for right-of-way uses and news racks.
- Multiple sections reworded or merged for ease of enforcement and clarity.



Summary and Next Steps



- Over 30 chapters amended, repealed, or clarified.
- Cleans up legacy rules and prepares code for future growth.
- Omnibus Ordinance sets the stage for future policy modernization and enforcement alignment.
- Next steps: Scheduled for Council in June





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Highlighted Outdated or Unused Provisions Removed



Code Chapter	Subject	Why It Was Removed or Repealed
13A	Dallas Transit System	Outdated—predates DART; no longer used since the 1980s.
25	Loan Brokers	Obsolete—superseded by Chapter 50 (payday lenders); untouched since 1941.
38	Private Detectives	Regulated by state; unenforced; no record of recent application.
39	Railroad Regulation	Preempted by federal law since the 1980s.
47-19	House Trailer Parking Restrictions	Conflicts with HUD requirements; extremely outdated.
13A-Entire	Smoking, fare evasion, personnel rules	Duplicated or obsolete under DART governance.
31-40	Shopping Cart Regulation	Not enforced; outdated as a nuisance ordinance.
7A-16	Posting Notices on Poles/Trees	Obsolete regulation; replaced by modern tools.
20	Earned Paid Sick Leave	Preempted by state law; repealed in multiple TX cities.
52	Construction Rest Break Requirements	Unenforceable; legally challenged.
36 (sections)	Poles & Wires Testing	Outdated technical standards since 1940s.
48 (parts)	Tree Rules in Right-of-Way	Replaced by updated ROW management standards.

Appendix: Exhibits Summary



Exhibit	Code Chapter(s) Affected	Action
A	Repeal of Ord. No. 32346	Removed eviction notice ordinance
B	Chapter 1	Clarified definitions
C	Chapter 2	Administrative updates
D	Chapter 7	Animal-related code updates
E	Chapter 7A	Deleted posting notice provision
F	Chapter 11	Cemetery code overhaul
G	Chapter 12B	ATM siting revisions
H	Chapter 13 (new 13-2.1)	Added agricultural exemption
I	Chapter 13A	Fully repealed – obsolete transit rules
J	Chapter 14B	Expanded emergency powers
K	Chapter 17	Allergen posters & patio revisions
L	Chapter 18	Solid waste updates
M	Chapter 20	Fully repealed – sick leave



Appendix: Exhibits Summary



Exhibit	Code Chapter(s) Affected	Action
N	Chapter 25	Fully repealed – loan brokers
O	Chapter 25A	Massage rule update
P	Chapter 27	Property standard updates
Q	Chapter 28	Parking enforcement updates
R	Chapter 31	Removed storage and cart rules
S	Chapter 32	State Fair structure update
T	Chapter 36	Removed outdated pole tests
U	Chapter 38	Fully repealed – detectives
V	Chapter 39	Fully repealed – railroads
W	Chapter 43	Newsrack and ROW revisions
X	Chapter 47	Removed trailer parking rule
Y	Chapter 48	Tree rule clean-up
Z	Chapter 52	Rest break repeal



Appendix: 30 Chapters affected by Omnibus



Chapter	Title	Action Taken
1	General Provisions	Clarified definitions (e.g., city health authority).
2	Administration	Updated roles (e.g., Facilities & Real Estate).
7	Animals	Revised definitions and enforcement clarity.
7A	Anti-Litter Regulations	Deleted posting notices section (7A-16).
11	Cemeteries and Burials	Major update to reflect current practice & law.
12B	Convenience Stores	Modernized ATM location rules.
13	Courts, Fines, and Imprisonments	Added agricultural operation exemption (13-2.1).
13A	Dallas Transit System	Fully repealed (obsolete, predates DART).
14B	Emergency Management	Expanded, clarified powers during emergencies.
17	Food Establishments	Added allergen posters; removed dog patio provisions.
18	Municipal Solid Wastes	Updated waste pickup, bulky item placement, and terms.
20	Earned Paid Sick Time	Fully repealed (state preempted).
25	Loan Brokers	Fully repealed (superseded by Chapter 50).
25A	Massage Establishments	Revised for state preemption; partial repeal.

Appendix: 30 Chapters affected by Omnibus



Chapter	Title	Action Taken
27	Minimum Property Standards	Revised inspection and registration language.
28	Motor Vehicles and Traffic	City Marshal authority clarified (parking garage).
31	Offenses – Miscellaneous	Removed homeless property storage, shopping cart rules.
32	Parks and Reservoirs	Updated fairgrounds building code compliance.
36	Poles and Wires	Deleted outdated testing procedures.
38	Private Detectives	Fully repealed (regulated by state).
39	Railroads	Fully repealed (federally preempted).
43	Streets and Sidewalks	Removed decal process; updated newsrack rules.
47	Trailers and Tourist Camps	Removed outdated house trailer rule (47-19).
48	Trees and Shrubs	Removed old ROW tree rules from 1940s.
52	Admin Procedures for Construction Codes	Removed rest break mandate (preempted).

