

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 18, 2026

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Zarin D. Gracey (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua Paul Ridley, Bill Roth, Chad West, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Staff Updates Following Hospitality & Nightlife Task Force Recommendations**

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on staff progress since the March briefing of the Hospitality & Nightlife Task Force recommendations and summarize the status of the draft Entertainment License Ordinance.

Progress Since March

Since the March 23, 2026, Committee briefing, staff has met weekly to develop a draft entertainment license ordinance. Key areas of progress include:

- Development of **clear applicability and definitions** consistent with current ordinances.
- Establishment of **baseline operational standards** for safety, sound, and responsible management, as well as defining how those requirements scale with increased operational risk.
- Alignment of the **tiered sound management framework**, with respect to the community's quality of life and available enforcement resources.
- Drafting of an **education-first enforcement structure** aligned with the Task Force's recommended compliance approach.

Collectively, this work reflects significant progress toward a modernized and implementable regulatory framework.

Draft Ordinance Overview

The working draft of the ordinance has been crafted into a comprehensive framework for how entertainment activities are licensed, operated, and managed within the city. Composed of four articles, it consists of:

1. Purpose and applicability
2. License categories
3. Safety expectations
4. Sound management

The draft language reflects the Committee's feedback to prioritize transparency, predictability, and balanced support for cultural vibrance and neighborhood livability.

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Next Steps

Staff will continue refining ordinance language and will return to the Committee in June 2026 with a comprehensive presentation of the ordinance draft.

We appreciate the Committee's continued guidance as we finalize the ordinance proposal. If you have any questions, please contact me or Martine Philippe, Director, Office of Arts and Culture directly at martine.philippe@dallas.gov.

Service First, Now!



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Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
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