

Omnibus Ordinance Review

City Council
September 3, 2025

John Johnson, Director, Facilities and
Real Estate Management Clifton
Gillespie, Director, Sanitation
Ghassan Khankarli, Director,
Transportation and Public Works,
John O'Connor, Deputy Director, Park
and Recreation
Scott Corkery, Lieutenant of Police,
Dallas Police Department,
Samuel Sarmiento, Police Deputy Chief
Clifton Knight, Chief Deputy City Marshal
Christopher Christian, Director, Code
Compliance
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City
Manager
Casey Burgess, Assistant City Attorney



City of Dallas

Background: Why a Code Cleanup?



- Dallas City Code spans decades of ordinance — some outdated or unenforceable.
- State and federal laws have changed, preempting local regulations in several areas.
- Departments identified inconsistencies, outdated language, and redundancies.
- As part of the City Manager's 100 Day Plan, City Departments set out to align City Ordinances with current laws, practices, and organizational structure



What is the Omnibus Ordinance?



- A single ordinance updating, repealing, or clarifying sections across multiple 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- Targets duplicative, preempted, outdated, or unenforced code provisions.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- Outdated or preempted ordinances pose legal risks to the City.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: All Departments asked to review relevant codes and identify those that should be identified in the Omnibus Ordinance Cleanup
- 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Highlights of Outdated or Unused Provisions Removed



- Ch. 13A: Dallas Transit System (pre-DART) repealed.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.



Updates to reflect current City Practices



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



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



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:(rest breaks)—expressly preempted by HB 2127



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



- Multiple chapters amended, repealed, or clarified
- Cleans up legacy rules and provides transparency
- Omnibus Ordinance sets the stage for future policy modernization and enforcement alignment.
- Next steps: For Council consideration and adoption in September.



Omnibus Ordinance Chapter Breakdown



Number	Chapter	Title	Department	Portfolio	Category	Summary
1	Ordinance No. 32346	Covid Eviction Ordinance	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Outdated	Temporary Eviction Ordinance passed during Covid
2	Chapter 1	General Provisions	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Updated	Clarifies the legal definitions used across the City Code, clarifying terminology and standardizing construction rules for ordinance interpretation.
3	Chapter 2	Administration	Facilities and Real Estate Management	Core	Updated	Updates roles for Facilities and Real Estate Management, especially regarding property management and acquisitions.



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4	Chapter 11	Cemeteries and Burials	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Updated	Updates to match current state law on cemetery recognition standards, eliminates outdated permitting processes
5	Chapter 12B	Automatic Teller Machines – Convenience Stores	Code Compliance / Dallas Police Department	Livable / Safe	Updated	Requires that all ATMs be bolted down and positioned away from doors and windows unless specially approved—aimed at crime prevention.
6	Chapter 13	Courts, Fines, and Imprisonments	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Alignment with State law	Adds a legal defense for agricultural operations consistent with Texas Agriculture Code, shielding them from certain city-imposed restrictions.
7	Chapter 13A	Dallas Transit System	Department of Transportation and Public Works	Sustainable	Repealed	Fully repeals the obsolete chapter governing the city-run transit system, which is no longer in operation since the formation of DART.
8	Chapter 14B	Emergency Mangement	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Alignment with State law	Clarifies the roles of the mayor and city manager during a disaster, limits emergency powers to protect religious freedom and essential services, and updates definitions to align with state law.

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#	Chapter	Title	Department	Portfolio	Category	Summary
9	Chapter 17	Food Establishments	Code Compliance	Livable	Updated/ Health/Safety	Mandates display of a standardized food allergen awareness poster in kitchens or prep areas to improve food safety for allergic individuals.
10	Chapter 18	Municipal Solid Waste	Sanitation Services	Livable	Updated	Updates definitions, streamlining bulk trash rules, changing collection frequencies, and removing outdated grass-cutting collection programs.
11	Chapter 20	Earned Paid Sick Time	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Preempted	Deletion due to state law



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#	Chapter	Title	Department	Portfolio	Category	Summary
12	Chapter 25	Loan Brokers	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Updated	This chapter addresses businesses who make small loans other than banks. This chapter has been largely untouched since 1941. We currently regulate credit service organizations and credit access businesses, commonly referred to as payday lenders under chapter 50.
13	Chapter 25A	Massage Establishments	City Attorney's Office / Dallas Police Department	CAO / Safe	Preempted	Revised for State preemption, partial repeal
14	Chapter 27	Minimum Property Standards	Code Compliance	Livable	Updated	Revised fence inspection and registration language
15	Chapter 28	Motor Vehicles and Traffic	Marshal Office	Safe	Updated	Authority clarification- Director of Marshall's Office oversee parking garage enforcement
16	Chapter 31	Offenses – Miscellaneous	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Preempted	Removes provisions on removal and storage of unhoused persons' property and solicitation

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#	Chapter	Title	Department	Portfolio	Category	Summary
17	Chapter 32	Parks and Water Reservoirs	Parks and Recreation	Vibrant	Updated	Updates fairgrounds and building code compliance
18	Chapter 36	Poles and Wires	Department of Transportation and Public Works	Sustainable	Updated	The amendments remove outdated provisions that have not been amended since the 1800s
19	Chapter 38	Private Detectives	City Attorney's Office	CAO	Fully Repealed	Private detectives are now licensed under Chapter 1702 of the Texas Occupations Code.
20	Chapter 39	Railroads	Department of Transportation and Public Works	Sustainable	Federal Preemption	Fully repealed



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#	Chapter	Title	Department	Portfolio	Category	Summary
21	Chapter 43	License Issuance, Display of Decals, Newsracks, Streets and Sidewalks	Facility and Real Estate Management	CORE	Updated	Removing decal requirements for newsracks in the right-of-way and regulations for allocation of newsrack locations.
22	Chapter 48	Trees and Shrubs	Parks and Recreation	Vibrant	Updated	Removed outdated Right of Way provisions.
23	Chapter 52	Administrative Procedures for the Construction Code	City Attorney's Office	CAO	State Preemption	Preempted by HB 2127



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