

**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Business Permit Category Changes  
October 2019**

**Q. Why are changes to business permit happening now?**

A. The Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC) have taken note of the ever-increasing smoking goods establishments in the neighborhoods.

These establishments are not required to have any licensing other than pay sales tax. The ability to contact in a swift matter an operator or owner has become increasingly challenging without the information available in a business permit. It is important to have regular contact with these establishments to promptly deal with matters such as signage, transparency, property maintenance and other issues covered under the Good Neighbor Agreement.

**Q. What do the changes look like?**

A. First, we need to update the definitions for Business Permit, of Chapter 90-32 to include Tobacco Products as listed on page 2.

Once the legislation is passed establishments that fit the description will receive a letter instructing them to apply for a business permit with the Permit Office, 121 B at City Hall.

Notices will be sent out quarterly in accordance with the historic renewal date of businesses previously required to renew. For businesses for whom this requirement would mean obtaining a business permit for the first time, notice will be sent when legislation is passed.

The smoking establishments will be required to pay the \$25 fee for the application and meet with the Neighborhood Service Center in their area to complete a Good Neighbor Agreement which is the same process in place currently for any business requiring a business permit from the City of Rochester.

The business will be required to renew annually for no charge.

**Q. What are the major changes to Chapter 90-32?**

A. The addition of Tobacco Products.

**Q. I currently have a permit that I renew every year for my business. How will this affect me?**

A. No changes for anyone that currently has a business permit.

**Q. Are there new fees for the Business Permit?**

A. No.

**Proposed Definition:**

SMOKING GOODS ESTABLISHMENT

A premises where tobacco products, hookah products, vaping products, or related accessories are sold For on or off-premises use. Such products include but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, herbal cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, dissolvable tobacco, bidis, gutka, shisha, roll-your own/loose tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, electronic nicotine delivery systems, hookahs and related products, rolling papers, cartridges for electronic cigarette and vapor devices regardless of nicotine or tobacco content, and any other smoked or smokeless tobacco or nicotine-containing product. This definition does not include smoking cessation medication expressly approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in smoking cessation programs.