

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 5, 2012

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Government Services Committee:  
Angela Hunt (Chair), Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Mónica R. Alonzo, Dwaine Caraway,  
Carolyn R. Davis

SUBJECT Occasional Accessory Sales (Garage Sales) Ordinance

On Monday, October 8, 2012 the committee will be briefed on the Occasional Accessory Sales (Garage Sales) Ordinance. Briefing materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge

A.C. Gonzalez, First Assistant City Manager  
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



# Occasional Accessory Sales (Garage Sales) Ordinance



Presented to the Quality of Life &  
Government Services Committee  
October 8, 2012



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# Purpose

- To review requirements, permit and enforcement activity, as well as potential changes to the ordinance on occasional sales, commonly referred to as garage sales

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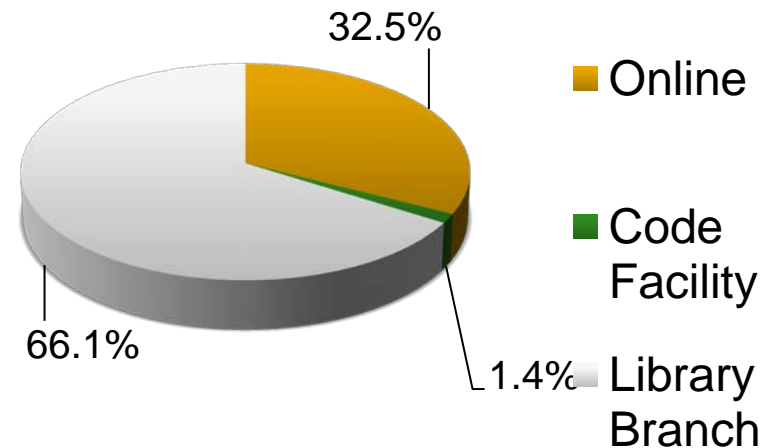
# Garage Sale Requirements

- Long-standing requirements in place regarding garage sales include:
  - Residents are allowed two garage sales during any 12 month period
  - The sale must be inside a building, garage or patio of the premise
  - The sale of new merchandise is prohibited
  - The duration of the sale cannot be more than 3 consecutive calendar days
  - No more than 1 sign is allowed on the lot where the sale is taking place; other signs at any other locations (off-premise signs) are prohibited
- Effective September 22, 2010, a \$15 permit was required to hold a garage sale

# Permit Activity

- Permit counts:
  - FY10-11: 12,430 permits
  - FY11-12: 15,435 permits
- Permitting locations:
  - On-line at [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com)
  - 27 Dallas Public Library Branches
  - 2 Code Compliance locations:
    - 3112 Canton
    - 7901 Goforth Road

**Percentage of Permits  
Obtained by Location  
FY 11-12**



# Permit Activity

FY11-12	# of Permits	Percentage
October	1,839	12%
November	1,308	8%
December	354	2%
January	682	4%
February	585	4%
March	1,334	9%
April	1,552	10%
May	1,805	12%
June	1,900	13%
July	1,430	9%
August	1,301	8%
September	1,345	9%

# Enforcement Activity

- Service request counts for garage sales
  - Includes both calls reported by residents through 311 and cases identified proactively by Code

Description	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12
Garage Sale Concern Service Requests	2,010	2,017	2,273	2,094

- On average during this timeframe, garage sale service requests were 1.3% of the total service request volume for Code Compliance

# Enforcement Activity

- 2,094 garage sale service requests (SRs) created in FY 11-12
  - Approximately 60% of the cases were identified proactively by Code Compliance staff
  - The remainder were reported by residents through 311

City Service Area	Count of Garage Sale SRs
Central	196
Northeast	245
Southeast	266
Southwest	566
Northwest	727
North Central	74
South Central	20



# Enforcement Activity

- In FY 11-12, 330 notices of violation and 32 criminal citations were issued for illegal garage sales
  - Types of violations include:  
No permit, exceeded 2 sales per year, selling in open space, selling new items, etc.

City Service Area	# of NOVs	# of Citations
Central	49	4
Northeast	6	12
Southeast	52	10
Southwest	208	2
Northwest	9	2
North Central	4	2
South Central	2	0

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# Potential Changes for Discussion

- Allow sales in yards or driveways?
  - Current rules require sale inside a building, garage or patio of the premise
    - Not all homes have garage or patio in front yard
- Allow off-premise signs on private property?
  - Current rules only allow a single sign on the property where the sale is occurring
  - Signs are prohibited on public right-of-way and off-premise signs are generally prohibited in residential areas
- Allow discounts or free permits?
  - Current ordinance requires a permit and \$15 fee for each garage sale

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# Next Steps

- Finalize a draft ordinance for Council Agenda
- Incorporate changes into public education efforts in advance of Spring 2013