

# Memorandum



City of Dallas

DATE May 10, 2013

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT Occasional Sales (Garage Sales) Ordinance Update

On Wednesday, May 15, 2013 the Council will be briefed on proposed updates to the Occasional 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, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata

Assistant City Manager

cc: 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 Sales (Garage Sales) Ordinance Update



Presented to the Dallas City Council  
May 15, 2013



---

# Purpose

- Review proposed ordinance updates for occasional sales, commonly referred to as garage sales, recommended by Quality of Life committee

# Comparative Table

Requirements	Current Ordinance	New Ordinance
Fee for 1 <sup>st</sup> permit	\$15	\$0
Fee for 2 <sup>nd</sup> permit	\$15	\$25
No. of sales allowed per year	2	2
No. of signs allowed on private property	1	5
Allow signs on medians, utility poles?	No	No
Allowed in uncovered driveways, porches?	No	Yes
Allow sale of new items?	No	No
Allow sale longer than 3 consecutive days?	No	No

---

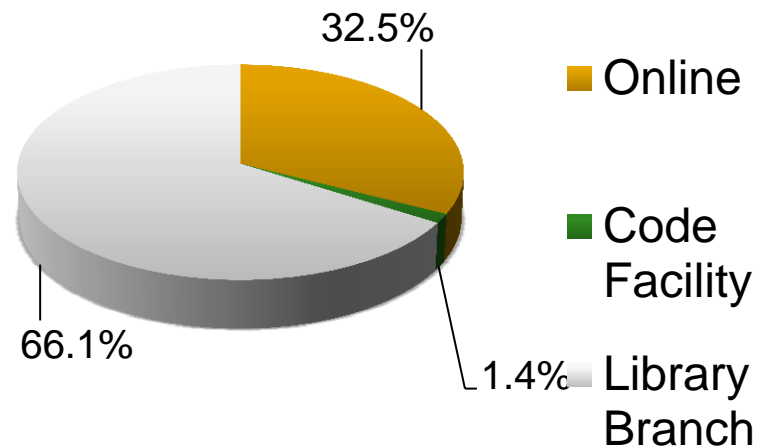
# Proposed Updates

- No fee for first permitted sale
  - Increase fee for second permitted sale to \$25
  - Revenue loss of \$160K annually
- Allow sales on approved surfaces (e.g., driveways) in addition to inside enclosed structures (e.g., garages)
- Allow up to 5 signs at remote locations advertising sale
  - Must be on private property
    - Signs are prohibited in the right-of-way (e.g., medians, utility poles)
  - Must have permission of property owners
  - Must be removed within 24 hours following sale

# Permit Activity

- Effective September 22, 2010, a \$15 permit was required per garage sale
- Permit counts:
  - FY10-11: 12,430 permits
  - FY11-12: 15,435 permits
  - Estimate for FY12-13 is approximately 16,000 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

---

# Next Steps

- Council consideration of updated ordinance on June 12, 2013 voting agenda
- Update forms, application process and work instructions for staff
- Develop and implement communications plan
  - Flyer for community meetings, events
  - City website
  - Permitting locations
- Effective date October 1, 2013