

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, REPEALING CHAPTER 5.15 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO TEENAGE DANCE HALLS AND ROLLERSKATING RINKS.

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to update the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to eliminate obsolete regulations; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.15 RMC, adopted in 1967, regulates teenage dance halls and rollerskating rinks; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.15 RMC regulates hours of operation, smoking, provision of alcohol, and property conditions, all of which have been supplanted by other laws since the adoption of Chapter 5.15 RMC in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.15 RMC, which has never been substantively updated, includes antiquated language and makes reference to “smoking rooms” and chaperones such as a “matron” or “floor lady,” none of which exist or are required in the present day; and

WHEREAS, repeal of Chapter 5.15 RMC is warranted because the chapter is now obsolete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.15 of the Richland Municipal Code, entitled Teenage Dance Halls and Rollerskating Rinks, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 423, and last amended by Ordinance No. 28-10, is hereby repealed.

Chapter 5.15

~~TEENAGE DANCE HALLS AND ROLLERSKATING RINKS~~ RESERVED

Sections:

~~5.15.010 Definitions.~~

~~5.15.020 Closing times.~~

~~5.15.030 Condition of premises—Lighting.~~

~~5.15.040 Miscellaneous regulations.~~

~~5.15.050 Violations—Penalties.~~

~~5.15.010 Definitions.~~

~~“Dance hall,” as used in this chapter, means any building, room, hall, or any other place which is kept or used for public dancing, or in which for compensation paid directly or indirectly to the owner, proprietor, manager or operator thereof, individuals are permitted to engage in dancing and where individuals under the age of 21 years are regularly admitted.~~

~~“Skating rink,” as used in this chapter, means any building, room, auditorium, hall or other place which is maintained and used for public rollerskating, in which for compensation paid directly or indirectly to the owner, proprietor, manager or operator thereof, individuals are permitted to engage in rollerskating and where individuals under the age of 21 years are regularly admitted.~~

~~5.15.020 Closing times.~~

~~All dance halls shall be closed by 12:30 a.m. and shall remain closed until noon and all skating rinks shall be closed by midnight and shall remain closed until 9:00 a.m.; provided, that upon application and for good cause shown the city manager may grant permission to the owner or operator of a dance hall or skating rink to vary the closing and opening hours. It is contemplated that such provision will only be granted on special occasions such as for graduation activities or on New Year’s Eve or for like events.~~

~~5.15.030 Condition of premises—Lighting.~~

~~Every dance hall and skating rink shall at all times be kept in a clean, healthful, sanitary condition and all stairways, halls, passages and rooms connected with the dance hall or skating rink shall be kept open and well lighted. Every dance hall and skating rink shall be lighted in such a manner and to such an extent as is usual or customary for lighting of halls or rooms of like dimensions for public assemblies before any person is admitted thereto and before any dancing or skating is commenced therein; provided, however, that the intensity of the illumination shall at no time be less than one footcandle at a plane of three feet above the floor of the hall or rink at all times thereof; the lighting or illumination shall be maintained thereafter throughout the entire time the dance hall or skating rink is open or dancing or skating is in progress therein and during any recess or other intermission, without diminution and without interruption until the activity is concluded and until the hall or skating rink is cleared and closed.~~

~~5.15.040 Miscellaneous regulations.~~

~~A. No minor admitted to a teenage dance or skating rink shall be permitted to leave and thereafter reenter the premises during the course of the event and no pass out checks shall be issued save and except in emergencies and when authorized specifically by the person in charge of the dance.~~

~~B. No alcoholic beverages shall be sold, consumed, or available on the premises in or about which any dance or skating rink activity is being held. Admission to a dance hall or skating rink shall be denied to any person showing evidence of drinking any alcoholic beverage or who has any alcoholic beverage on his person.~~

~~C. Sufficient adult supervision shall be provided by the sponsor at all activities to ensure that accepted standards of social conduct are followed and at any dance hall a matron or floor lady must be on duty at all times during which the premises is being used.~~

~~D. No person shall be permitted to smoke or carry in his hand a lighted cigar, cigarette or pipe on the premises in or about which any dance or skating rink activity is being held, except in any smoking room provided for such purpose and connected with the dance hall or skating rink.~~

~~5.15.050 Violations—Penalties.~~

~~Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.~~

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

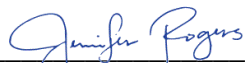
Section 4. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 5. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 6th day of May, 2025.


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

Attest:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: April 15, 2025

Second Reading: May 6, 2025

Date Published: May 11, 2025