

TOBACCO RETAIL (SMOKE SHOPS)

PC-2025-01190 (Zoning Text Amendment)

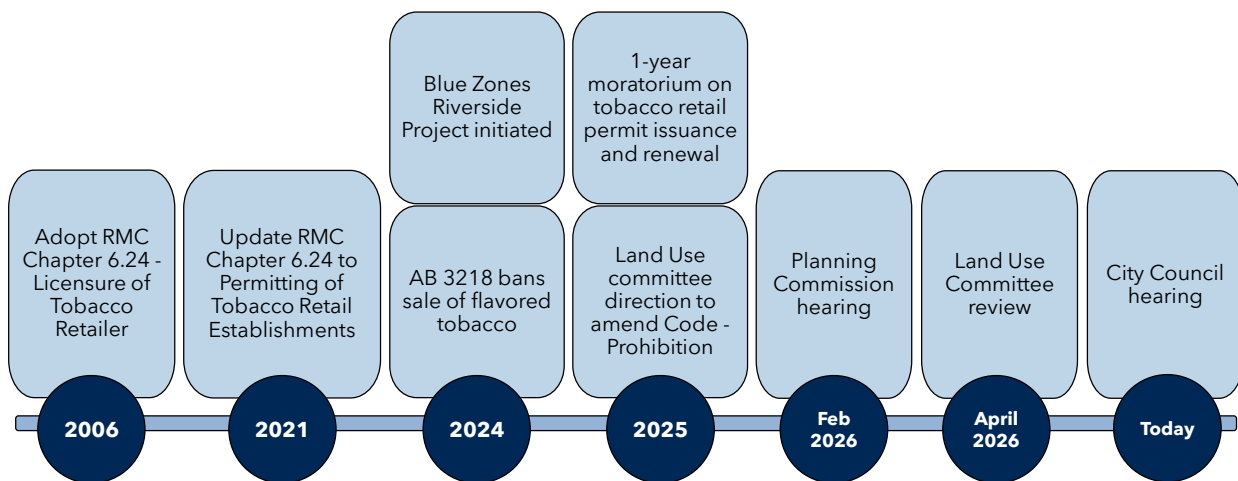
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Council
July 14, 2026

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1

BACKGROUND



2

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2

BACKGROUND

June 2026:

214

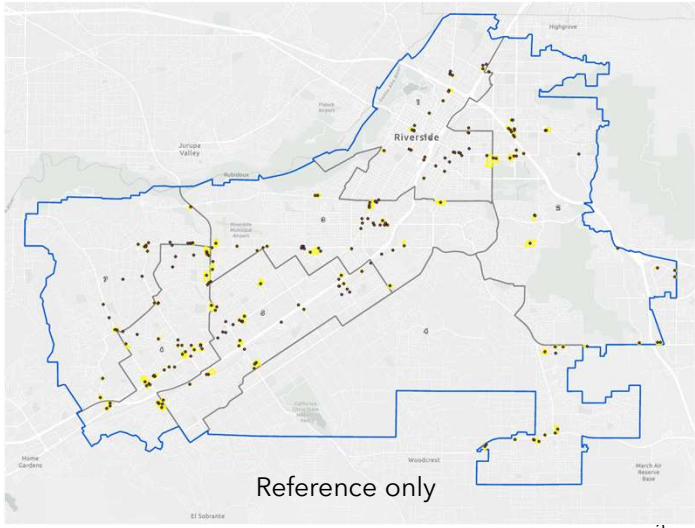
Known locations with active tobacco retail use

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Meet definition of Smoke Shop per Zoning Code

24

Smoke shops with compliance issues



Reference only




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3

RMC CHAPTER 6.24

Tobacco Retail Establishment Permit

- Required for all tobacco retailers
- Nontransferable
- Renewed every 2 years
- Must obey all applicable local, state, and federal laws
- No sales between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am
- Permits may be revoked if violation is determined
- Operators without necessary permits are subject to closure of the facility





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4

RMC TITLE 19 – ZONING CODE

Tobacco retail considered “retail sales”

- Retail sales permitted all commercial and mixed-use zones
- No operating standards, site standards, or land use permits specific to tobacco retail



Image source: koronapos.com

RMC Smoke Shop Definition:

A business with sales of tobacco, either loose or prepared as cigarettes and products for the smoking of tobacco constituting more than 30 percent of gross sales and/or 30 percent of net lease area

RMC Retail Sales Definition:

A commercial enterprise that provides goods and/or services directly to the consumer. Where such goods are normally available for immediate purchase and removal from the premises by the purchaser

5



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5

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- Amend **Permitted Uses Table** to identify Smoke Shops as a separately regulated use
 - Allowed in all zones that permit retail
- Create new **Chapter 19.405 (Tobacco Retail - Smoke Shops)**:
 - Minimum separation from:
 - Residential - **100 feet**
 - Schools, parks, day cares and places of worship - **1,000 feet**
 - Other smoke shops - **1,000 feet**
- Establish **amortization policy** for non-compliant locations:
 - 2-year deadline to relocate or cease operation
 - Provisions for financial hardship extension



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6


SENSITIVE RECEPTORS MAP

22 Locations that do not meet sensitive receptor separation

17 Locations that do not meet separation from other smoke shop

6 Locations that comply with proposed amendments


MAP TK

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7

OUTREACH & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct mailed notification to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All tobacco retail permit holders• All registered business tax certificate holders for smoke shops• All owners of properties on which a smoke shop is located• General Notice of Hearing - <i>Press-Enterprise</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification and notification of specific businesses subject to amortization• Coordination with Code Enforcement, RPD, Economic Development on compliance and relocation assistance• Potential collaboration with Blue Zones Project Riverside to develop program to help businesses transition to healthier models

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8

ALTERNATIVES

- **Modify applicable sensitive uses**
 - Fewer areas subject to separation minimums
- **Modify minimum separation distances**
 - Fewer businesses impacted
- **Extend amortization period**
 - More time to achieve compliance
- **Remove amortization provisions**
 - Proposed amendments apply to new businesses only



9

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9

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

- 1. Determine** that Planning Case PC-2025-01190 (Zoning Text Amendment) is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act Review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule), as it can be seen with certainty that approval of the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2. Approve** Planning Case PC-2025-01190 (Zoning Text Amendment) based on the findings summarized in the Planning Commission Staff Report; and
- 3. Introduce** and subsequently **adopt** the attached Ordinance amending Title 19 (Zoning) of the Riverside Municipal Code.



10

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10

REFERENCE SLIDE



BLUE ZONES PROJECT®

Strategy 1.1 Adopt comprehensive tobacco-free outdoor space policies, including signage.

Strategy 1.2 Adopt restrictions on smoking and vaping at outdoor bars and restaurants.

★ **Strategy 2.1** Limit the location of tobacco and vape retail outlets in proximity to youth-oriented places, such as schools and parks.

Strategy 2.2 Prohibit the sale of the flavored tobacco and nicotine products, including menthol products.

Strategy 3.1 Integrate tobacco treatment systems change within all types of healthcare settings, including behavioral health.

Strategy 3.2 Require retail outlets that sell tobacco and vape products to post graphic warning and cessation messages near tobacco-product displays and/or at the point of sale.



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