



PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLES 1, 5, 6 AND 9 OF RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCLUDE STANDARDIZED BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION FOR PERMITTED BUSINESSES

SAFETY, WELLNESS, & YOUTH COMMITTEE

February 18, 2026

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BACKGROUND

RPD is responsible for conducting background checks and issuing business permits for 11 types of businesses in the City of Riverside.

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| 1. Poolrooms | 6. Junk Dealers & Scrap Metal Recyclers |
| 2. Vehicles for Hire, Taxicabs and Animal-Drawn Vehicles | 7. Pawn Shops & Secondhand Dealers |
| 3. Massage Parlors | 8. Firearm Dealers |
| 4. Cannabis Dispensaries | 9. Tobacco Retail Establishments |
| 5. Entertainment | 10. Adult-Oriented Businesses |
| | 11. Fortunetelling & Occult Art |



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BACKGROUND



The Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) currently provides several different requirements for conducting background investigations into business owners and their employees, depending on the business type.



When reviewing the background investigation requirements RPD found:

- Inconsistent background check requirements
- Codes written at different times with varying standards



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PROPOSED SOLUTION

Add Section 1.17.122 to RMC for standard background investigation procedure

Applies to all businesses requiring RPD review

Retains additional requirements for specific business types



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BENEFITS OF UNIFORM PROCEDURE

- Section 1.17.122 would provide:
 - A consistent process for all background checks across all business types
 - Clarity for applicants and staff
 - Improved compliance and enforcement



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Safety, Wellness, and Youth Committee:

1. Receive and discuss the proposed ordinance amending Titles 1, 5, 6 and 9 of the Riverside Municipal Code to include a standardized background investigation procedure for businesses that require a background as part of the business permit process, in addition to any specific changes for specific business types covered under their respective titles within the RMC; and
2. Forward their recommendation to the City Council for consideration.



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