

**THE REGULATIONS FOR
SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES
IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**



AS

**ADOPTED ON AUGUST 6, 1996
REVISED ON OCTOBER 23, 2018
EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2019**

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

**COUNTY JUDGE, ED EMMETT
COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, RODNEY ELLIS
COMMISSIONER PCT. 2, JACK MORMAN
COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, STEVE RADACK
COMMISSIONER PCT. 4, R. JACK CAGLE**

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**SECTION 1.
GENERALLY.**

1.1 AUTHORITY TO REGULATE.

- (a) These Regulations are promulgated pursuant to and in conformity with Chapter 234 of the Local Government Code and Chapter 243 of the Local Government Code, as amended.
- (b) It is the purpose of the Harris County Commissioners Court to exercise its police power, as established under Chapter 234 of the Local Government Code, to prohibit Massage Parlors in order to promote and protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Unincorporated Harris County, and to prohibit business activities which merely serve as a front for criminal activities, including but not limited to, prostitution and the promotion of prostitution.
- (c) It is the purpose of the Harris County Commissioners Court to exercise its police power, as established under Chapter 243 of the Local Government Code, to establish reasonable and uniform regulations of Sexually Oriented Businesses (“SOB” or “SOBs”) to promote and protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Unincorporated Harris County, and to prohibit business activities that merely serve as a front for criminal activities, including but not limited to, prostitution, human trafficking, and the promotion of prostitution.
- (d) The provisions of these Regulations have neither the intent nor the effect of imposing limits or restrictions on the content of any communicative material, including sexually oriented material.
- (e) The provisions of these Regulations have neither the intent nor the effect of imposing limits or restrictions on an adult’s access to sexually oriented material protected by the First Amendment.
- (f) These Regulations do not legalize anything prohibited under the Texas Penal Code and any other law(s) or regulation(s).

1.2 ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby designates and directs any law enforcement agency to investigate for violations of these Regulations. All Peace Officers certified by the State of Texas may enforce these Regulations.
- (b) The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby designates the Harris County Sheriff, or his/her duly authorized agent, as the SOB Permit Administrator for Unincorporated Harris County. The SOB Permit Administrator shall supervise, control, and operate the SOB Permit Office. The SOB Permit Administrator shall investigate, deny, issue, attach

conditions to, administratively suspend, and/or revoke SOB Permits issued pursuant to these Regulations.

- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code—as amended—a person commits an offense if the person violates a county regulation adopted under Chapter 243. An offense under this Section is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Local Government Code, as amended, a county may sue in the district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of a regulation adopted under Section 243.
- (e) The Harris County Commissioners Court allows incorporated cities or towns in Harris County that have executed interlocal agreements with Harris County to designate their own SOB Permit Administrator. The SOB Permit Administrator shall supervise, control, and operate the Permit Office. The SOB Permit Administrator shall investigate, deny, issue, attach conditions to, administratively suspend, and/or revoke SOB Permits issued pursuant to these Regulations.

1.3 AREAS COVERED BY THESE REGULATIONS.

- (a) Pursuant to Section 243.003(c) of the Local Government Code, these Regulations apply to SOBs located in the parts of Harris County outside the corporate limits of a municipality.
- (b) These Regulations apply to Massage Parlors located in unincorporated area of Harris County.

1.4 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

- (a) “*Applicant*” means an individual, business, company, corporation, or other legal entity that is required to obtain—or has applied for—a Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (b) “*Child Care Facility*” means a facility, building, or portion of a building, whether situated within Harris County or not, used as a day nursery, children’s boarding home, child placement agency, or other place for the care and/or custody of children under fifteen (15) years of age.
- (c) “*Church*” and/or “*Regular Place of Religious Worship*” means a facility, building, or portion of a building, whether situated within Harris County or not, in which person(s) regularly assemble for religious worship and said building or portion of said building is intended primarily for purposes connected with such worship or for propagating a particular form of religious belief.

- (d) **“Fire Safety Official”** means the Harris County Fire Marshall or the department official having competent jurisdiction to conduct a fire and life safety inspection.
- (e) **“Harris County”** means the parts of Harris County, Texas outside the corporate limits of a municipality.
- (f) **“Interlocal Agreement”** and/or **“Cooperative Agreement”** means a cooperative agreement between Harris County and an incorporate municipality.
- (g) **“Live Entertainment”** means any activity provided for pleasure, enjoyment, recreation, relaxation, diversion, or other similar purpose by a person or persons who are physically present when providing an activity to a patron or group of patrons who are physically present.
- (h) **“Nude”** or **“Nudity”** means wearing no clothes; naked—a state of undress so as to expose the human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering, or the showing of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple.
- (i) **“Regulations”** or **“the Regulations”** or **“these Regulations”** means these Regulations of Harris County for the operation of SOBs.
- (j) **“Residential Neighborhood”** means any home, house, or other structure, whether situated within Harris County or not, in which a person lives and/or resides.
- (k) **“School”** means a facility, including all attached playgrounds, dormitories, stadiums, or other appurtenances that are part of the facility, whether situated within Harris County or not, used for the primary purpose of instruction or education, including primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities, both public and private.
- (l) **“Sexually Oriented Business”** (“SOB” or “SOBs”) means a sex parlor, nude studio, modeling studio, love parlor, adult bookstore, adult movie theater, adult video arcade, adult movie arcade, adult video store, adult motel, or other commercial enterprise the primary business of which is the offering of a service or the selling, renting, or exhibiting of devices or any other items intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to the customer.
- (m) **“SOB Customer”** or **“SOB Patron”** means any person who:
 - (1) is allowed to enter a SOB in return for the payment of an admission fee or any other form of consideration or gratuity;
 - (2) enters a SOB and purchases, rents, or otherwise partakes in any merchandise, goods, entertainment, or other services offered therein; or,
 - (3) is a member of, and on the premises of, a SOB.

- (n) “**SOB Employee**” means any person who does one (1) or more of the following at a SOB:
- (1) operates a cash register, cash drawer, virtual currency, or other depository on the premises of a SOB where cash funds or records of credit card or other credit transactions generated in any manner by the operation of the SOB or the activities conducted therein are kept;
 - (2) displays or takes orders from any patron for any merchandise, goods, entertainment, or other services offered on the premises of the SOB;
 - (3) delivers or provides to any patron any merchandise, goods, entertainment, or other services offered on the premises of the SOB;
 - (4) offers a service or sells, rents, or exhibits devices or any other items intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification on the premises of the SOB;
 - (5) acts as a door attendant to regulate entry of patrons or other persons onto the SOB;
 - (6) provides security services at a SOB;
 - (7) works as a cook, chef, kitchen worker, restroom attendant, parking lot attendant, or house mom at a SOB;
 - (8) works as a dancer, entertainer, or other service provider at a SOB;
 - (9) supervises or manages other persons in the performance of any of the foregoing activities on the premises of the SOB;
 - (10) acts as an in-house accountant at a SOB; or,
 - (11) applies for a Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (o) “**SOB Owner**” means an individual, business, company, corporation, or other legal entity that:
- (1) has an ownership interest in, or receives profits from, a SOB;
 - (2) is a partner, director, designated agent, or officer of a business, company, corporation, or other legal entity that has an ownership interest in a SOB;
 - (3) is a shareholder that holds more than ten (10) percent of the outstanding shares of a business, company, corporation, or other legal entity that has an ownership interest in a SOB;
 - (4) has been issued by the County Clerk an assumed name certificate for a business that owns a SOB;

- (5) signs a lease for a SOB;
 - (6) receives a certificate of occupancy for a SOB;
 - (7) pays for advertising for a SOB;
 - (8) signs an alarm permit for a SOB;
 - (9) opens an account for utilities for a SOB;
 - (10) signs for, or applies for, a license issued by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a SOB; or,
 - (11) applies for a Class 1 SOB Permit.
- (p) “***SOB Permit Administrator***” means the Sheriff of Harris County, the Sheriff’s designated agent, or the designated official for a cooperating municipality.
- (q) “***SOB Permit Office***” means the location which has been designated by the SOB Permit Administrator where commercial businesses and/or individuals apply for Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (r) “***Specified Anatomical Areas***” means and includes any of the following:
- (1) human genitals, pubic region or pubic hair;
 - (2) buttock;
 - (3) areola of the breast; or
 - (4) any combination of the foregoing.
- (s) “***Specified Sexual Activities***” means and includes any of the following:
- (1) the fondling or other erotic touching of another’s or one’s own human genitals, pubic region, pubic hair, perineum, buttocks, anus, or female breasts;
 - (2) sex acts, actual or simulated, including intercourse, oral copulation, or sodomy;
 - (3) masturbation, actual or simulated on oneself, or another; or,
 - (4) excretory functions as part of or in connection with any of the activities set forth in (1)-(3) above.
- (t) “***State of Nudity***” or “***Semi-Nude***” means any state of dress which fails to cover a human buttock, anus, genitalia, and/or areola of the breast.

**SECTION 2.
CLASS 1 SOB PERMITS.**

2.1 APPLICATION.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, individual, business, company, corporation, or other legal entity to operate a SOB in Harris County—for any period of time—that has not been issued a Class 1 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations. Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates a SOB in violation of this Subsection. Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection against any SOB Owner, SOB Employee, or against any other person or entity who maintains, owns, uses, is a party to the use, or who owns the real property where the violation or threatened violation of this Subsection is occurring and/or has occurred.

- (b) A complete application shall be filed with the SOB Permit Administrator. The application shall be filed on the form provided by the SOB Permit Administrator. The SOB Permit Administrator shall establish the hours when an application can be submitted.
 - (1) The Applicant(s) shall apply in person.
 - (2) The Applicant(s) shall be the SOB's Owner(s).
 - (3) The SOB Permit Administrator shall provide the fee schedule to the Applicant(s). Pursuant to Section 243.009 of the Local Government Code, the fees must be based on the cost of processing the applications and investigating the applicants.
 - (4) Incomplete applications will result in denial of the application and forfeiture of the application fee.
 - (5) Once a complete application has been received, the SOB Permit Administrator shall conduct up to three (3) inspections of the Applicant(s)' proposed SOB to ensure compliance with these Regulations. The Applicant(s) must be present in person during these inspections. It shall be the responsibility of the Applicant(s) to provide an interpreter if necessary during these inspection(s).
 - (i) After the initial inspection, the Applicant(s) will be informed in writing of what corrections must be made to the proposed SOB in order to comply with these Regulations.
 - (ii) A second inspection will be performed if necessary. The Applicant(s) will again be informed in writing of what corrections must be made to the proposed SOB in order to comply with these Regulations.

- (iii) If after the third and final inspection the Applicant(s)' proposed SOB fails to comply with these Regulations, the SOB Permit Administrator will deny the application.
 - (iv) If the proposed SOB passes inspection, the SOB Permit Administrator shall approve the application.
- (6) The Applicant(s) has ninety (90) days from the initial inspection to complete the inspection process. Failure to complete the inspection process within these ninety (90) days shall result in denial of the application. It is the obligation of the Applicant to ensure the process is completed in the requisite ninety (90) days.
- (7) Failure to provide any information required by this Section or a determination by the SOB Permit Administrator that inaccurate, erroneous, or incomplete information has been submitted, shall be grounds for denial of the application.
- (c) In municipalities which have elected to adopt the Harris County SOB Regulations, and where Harris County Commissioners Court has approved an Interlocal Agreement between the municipality and Harris County, the municipality shall designate an entity to receive and process SOB Permit applications. The municipality shall adopt a common operating procedure with requirements and processes reasonably similar to those set out by these Regulations.
- (d) Each complete Class 1 SOB Permit application shall be accompanied by:
 - (1) a current annual fire inspection report from a fire safety official showing compliance with all applicable fire safety codes and with all corrections ordered;
 - (2) a copy of the certificate of occupancy and/or certificate of compliance issued by the appropriate entity for the proposed SOB;
 - (3) a copy of the diagram and/or floorplan to include the designed occupancy load prepared by a licensed architect or engineer and approved by the entity with competent jurisdiction;
 - (4) a copy of the proposed SOB's TABC license(s) and/or permit(s) (if applicable);
 - (5) a true and correct copy of the assumed name certificate filed in the office of the Harris County Clerk, bearing the file mark or stamp that evidences its filing, if the SOB will be operating under an assumed name;
 - (6) a copy of the formative legal documents for the applicable legal entity(s) (e.g., the Articles of Incorporation);
 - (7) a non-refundable application fee (cashier's check or money order only) as determined by the SOB Permit Administrator;

- (8) a color photocopy of the Applicant's driver's license or government-issued photo identification;
 - (9) proof that the proposed SOB is in compliance with, or exempt from, the applicable distance restriction which are set forth in the applicable Section(s) of these Regulations;
 - (10) a complete and accurate list of all SOB Employees along with color photocopies of the individual(s) driver's license or government-issued identification papers;
 - (11) proof, as required by Section 3 of these Regulations, that all SOB Owners and/or Employees of the Proposed SOB have applied for a valid Class 2 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations;
 - (12) a copy of the current and valid lease agreement between the Applicant and the owner of the real property where the proposed SOB is planning to operate from, with the Applicant listed as the owner of the proposed SOB, or proof that the Applicant own the real property where the proposed SOB is planning to operate from; and,
 - (13) a certification that all of the contents of the application, and the material presented above, are true and correct under the penalty of Perjury as defined by Section 37.02 of the Texas Penal Code. Additionally, any misrepresentation by the Applicant(s) on his/her application is a third degree felony offense as defined by Section 37.10 of the Texas Penal Code.
- (e) A Class 1 SOB Permit application shall be denied upon failure to produce all documents and information required by Subsection 2.1(d) (1)-(13). Failure to provide proof required by Subsection 2.1(d) (9) will result in denial of the distance exemption required by these Regulations.
- (f) A SOB SHALL NOT OPERATE DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE APPLICATION AND SHALL NOT OPERATE UNTIL THE CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AND THE CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT ISSUED & DISPLAYED.
- (g) A Class 1 SOB Permit, in accordance with these Regulations, is not transferable, assignable, or divisible, and it is a violation of these Regulations for anyperson to attempt to do so. If ownership of a SOB changes, the SOB shall be deemed unpermitted and the new SOB Owner(s) must reapply and be issued a Class 1 SOB Permit before the SOB may operate.
- (1) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person transfers, assigns, or divides a Class 1 SOB Permit in violation of this Subsection.

- (h) Pursuant to Section 243.0075 of the Local Government Code, Applicant(s) seeking a Class 1 SOB Permit for a location not currently licensed or permitted shall, not later than the 60th day before the date the application is filed, prominently post an outdoor sign at the location stating that a SOB is intended to be located on the premises and providing the name and business address of the Applicant(s). The sign must be at least 24 by 36 inches in size and must be written in lettering at least two inches in size.

2.2 DENIAL OF A CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 1 SOB Permit shall be denied upon a finding by the SOB Permit Administrator of any of the following facts:
 - (1) the proposed SOB has violated, or is not in compliance with, any applicable Section or Subsection of these Regulations;
 - (2) the Applicant(s), or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity, any officer, director, member, partner or participant required to be identified in the application, has been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty, received deferred adjudication, or who is currently charged with, any of the following offenses:
 - (i) prostitution, promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, compelling prostitution, obscenity, sale distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor, sexual performance by child, or possession of child pornography as described by Chapter 43 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (ii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 20 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (iii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 21 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (iv) sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault as described in Chapter 22 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (v) incest, solicitation of a child or harboring a runaway child as described in Chapter 25 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (vi) gambling, gambling promotion, keeping a gambling place, communicating gambling information, possession of gambling devices or equipment, or possession of gambling paraphernalia as described in Chapter 47 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (vii) forgery, credit card abuse or commercial bribery as described in a Chapter 32 of the Texas Penal Code;

- (viii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 481 Subchapter D of the Health and Safety Code;
 - (ix) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 34 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (x) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 352, Subchapter B of the Texas Local Government Code;
 - (xi) a violation of Chapter 455 of the Texas Occupations code; or,
 - (xii) criminal attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the foregoing offenses; or, any other offense to the laws of another state or of the United States that, if committed in this State, would have been punishable as one or more of the aforementioned offenses; and,
 - A. less than two (2) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or of the conviction, or of the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a misdemeanor offense; or,
 - B. less than five (5) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or conviction, or the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a felony offense.
- (3) the Applicant(s) made a misleading statement in the application for a SOB Permit, provided false, fraudulent, or untruthful information in the application for a SOB Permit, and/or withheld pertinent information in the application for a SOB Permit;
 - (4) the Applicant(s) is under eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (5) the Applicant(s) has had a Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit denied within the three hundred and sixty-five (365) day period immediately preceding the date the application was filed;
 - (6) the Applicant(s) has had a Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit revoked within the three hundred and sixty-five (365) day period immediately preceding the date the application was filed;
 - (7) the Applicant(s) is delinquent in the payment to the county of taxes, fees, fines, or penalties assessed or imposed regarding the operation of a SOB;
 - (8) an application or renewal fee required by these Regulations has not been paid;
 - (9) the inspection process was not completed within the ninety (90) day period described in Subsection 2.1 of these Regulations; and/or,

- (10) the Applicant(s) has operated any business that has been sued, and judgment entered against the business, pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code within five (5) years immediately preceding the date the application was filed.
- (b) If any of the stated events or conditions providing a basis for denial of a Class 1 SOB Permit have occurred, the SOB Permit Administrator shall document the reason for denial in a denial letter, and provide notice to the Applicant(s) by posting a copy of the denial letter on an entrance door of the SOB within thirty (30) days from the date on which the denial letter was drafted by the SOB Permit Administrator. The denial letter shall provide the reason(s) for the action.

2.3 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF A CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) The Permit Administrator shall have the authority to revoke or suspend a permit for the following reasons:
 - (1) the SOB has violated, or is not in compliance with, any applicable Section or Subsection of these Regulations;
 - (2) the Applicant(s) made a misleading statement in the application for a Class 1 SOB Permit, provided false, fraudulent, or untruthful information in the application for a Class 1 SOB Permit, and/or withheld pertinent information in the application for a Class 1 SOB Permit; or,
 - (3) the Class 1 SOB Permit should not have been issued pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) If any of the stated events or conditions providing a basis for revocation or suspension of a Class 1 SOB Permit have occurred, the SOB Permit Administrator shall document the violation in a revocation or suspension letter, and provide notice to the SOB Owner(s) by posting a copy of the revocation or suspension letter on an entrance door of the SOB within thirty (30) days from the date on which the revocation or suspension letter was drafted by the SOB Permit Administrator. The revocation or suspension letter shall provide the reason(s) for the action. A revocation or suspension of a Class 1 SOB Permit by the SOB Permit Administrator shall become final on the seventh (7th) day after the revocation or suspension letter is posted on an entrance door of the SOB.

2.4 CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT APPEALS.

- (a) If the SOB Permit Administrator denies a Class 1 SOB Permit Application, revokes a Class 1 SOB Permit, or suspends a Class 1 SOB Permit, the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) shall have the opportunity to make a written request for a hearing before a hearing examiner appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court. The hearing examiner shall not

have participated in any investigation of the alleged grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

- (b) All requests for hearings must be in writing and delivered to the SOB Permit Administrator within thirty (30) days from the date when the denial, revocation, or suspension letter was posted at an entrance door of the SOB by the SOB Permit Administrator. The Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) waive the right to a Class 1 SOB Permit appeal hearing if the request is not timely received by the SOB Permit Administrator.
- (c) The Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) shall be provided an opportunity to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and be represented by legal counsel. The formal rules of evidence do not apply.
- (d) It shall be the responsibility of the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) to provide a court reporter and an interpreter if necessary for the Class 1 SOB Permit appeal hearings before the hearing examiner.
- (e) The Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) shall be present in person at the Class 1 SOB Permit appeal hearings. If the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) are not present in person at the Class 1 SOB Permit appeal hearing, the Class 1 SOB Permit shall be automatically denied or revoked.
- (f) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold or reverse the denial of a Class 1 SOB Permit.
- (g) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold, reverse, or modify the suspension of a Class 1 SOB Permit by ordering a shorter or longer suspension.
- (h) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold, modify or reverse the revocation of a Class 1 SOB Permit and instead order a suspension. However, if the hearing examiner finds that a violation of a particular Section or Subsection of these Regulations has occurred and that the specific violation calls for mandatory revocation, the hearing examiner shall strictly abide by that determination and shall not retroactively modify or change the status of that revocation.
- (i) The decision of the hearing examiner shall be final.
- (j) The hearing examiner shall issue a written order memorializing his/her decision within thirty (30) days from the date of the Class 1 SOB permit appeal hearing. The written order shall be distributed to the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s), and SOB Permit Administrator via certified mail or e-mail.
- (k) A SOB SHALL NOT OPERATE DURING THE PENDENCY OF AN APPEAL TO THE HEARING EXAMINER.

2.5 DISTRICT COURT APPEALS FOR CLASS 1 SOB PERMITS.

- (a) On final decision by the hearing examiner, the losing party may appeal the decision by filing a petition in a district court in the county with jurisdiction within thirty (30) days after the date of the decision by the hearing examiner.
- (b) Appeals to the district court shall be governed by the substantial evidence rule defined by Section 2001.174 of the Government Code.
- (c) If the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) appeal to the hearing examiner is successful, the SOB may resume operation and may operate during the pendency of an appeal by the County to the district court. However, if the Applicant(s) or SOB Owner(s) appeal to the hearing examiner is unsuccessful, the SOB may not resume operation and may not operate during the pendency of an appeal by the SOB to the district court.

2.6 REAPPLICATION FOR A CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) After the hearing examiner's final ruling of the denial or revocation of a Class 1 SOB Permit, an Applicant(s) may reapply for a Class 1 SOB Permit after the expiration of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days from the date of the hearing examiner's ruling.
- (b) The application will be considered a new application in regard to the timelines and fee established in Subsection 2.1, and for any applicable distance requirements set forth in these Regulations.

2.7 RENEWAL OF A CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 1 SOB Permit may be renewed for the following year starting ninety (90) days before the expiration of the current permit by filing a complete application of a Class 1 SOB Permit and paying the applicable fee set forth in these Regulations.
- (b) A renewal application shall be subject to the same requirements in these Regulations as are required for a Class 1 SOB Permit application. As long as the completed renewal application was submitted within this ninety (90) day period, the previous Class 1 SOB Permit will remain in effect until the SOB Permit Administrator makes a determination in accordance with these Regulations as to whether the Class 1 SOB Permit will be renewed.

2.8 CONTENTS OF A CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 1 SOB Permit is valid for three hundred and sixty-five (365) days.
- (b) When the application process is complete and the proposed SOB has met all the requirements set forth in these Regulations, the SOB Permit Administrator shall issue the proposed SOB a Class 1 SOB Permit.
- (c) The Class 1 SOB Permit shall contain the following:
 - (1) the date the Permit was issued;
 - (2) the date the Permit expires;
 - (3) the name of the SOB;
 - (4) the type of commercial enterprise the SOB is operating as (e.g., “an Adult Motel”);
 - (5) the physical address of the SOB;
 - (6) the name of the SOB Owner(s);
 - (7) indicate what exemptions, if any, the SOB was granted; and,
 - (8) the signature of the SOB Permit Administrator.
- (d) The SOB Permit Administrator shall keep a signed copy of the Class 1 SOB Permit for the SOB Permit Administrator’s records.

2.9 CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT DISPLAYED.

- (a) A SOB shall post and display its current valid Class 1 SOB Permit conspicuously in plain sight in a common area accessible to the public and patrons.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.10 DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS.

- (a) A SOB shall not be located:
 - (1) within 1,500 feet from any existing or planned school, regular place of religious worship, child care facility, and/or residential neighborhood. “Planned” means that steps have been taken toward the facility’s or structure’s development including but not limited to a Permit received, a plat approved, design work started, a bond received, or an order approved by a governmental entity’s governing body; or,
 - (2) within a distance of 2,000 feet from where two (2) or more SOBs are located.
- (b) For the purposes of this Subsection, measurements shall be made in a straight line from the nearest property line upon which the SOB sits to the nearest property line used for the purposes identified in Subsection (a) and Subsection (b) above.
- (c) A SOB are exempt from the distance restrictions upon proof that the Applicant continuously owned and operated the SOB at the same location and under the same name prior to October 23, 2018. If the SOB changes its name, its Owner, and/or adds another Owner after this date, or if the Class 1 SOB Permit is suspended or revoked, or if the Class 1 SOB Permit is denied renewal, or if the Class 1 SOB Permit is allowed to lapse, the SOB will be considered a new SOB and will not be exempt from the distance requirements outlined in this Subsection. All applications claiming a distance exemption under this Subsection must be submitted on or before December 31, 2018.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (e) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (f) Any violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.11 CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEES, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND/OR CUSTOMERS.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner, operator or any agent or employee of a SOB to knowingly allow or permit any person to engage in specified sexual activities or to use the devices set out in Section 7.1(a)(2), within the SOB. This prohibition does not apply to an “Adult Motel” as defined in these regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.

- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection shall be grounds for mandatory denial or revocation of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.12 INSPECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.

- (a) Peace Officers and Fire Safety Officials are authorized to inspect a SOB to ensure compliance with these Regulations. A Class 1 SOB Permit issued pursuant to these Regulations gives Peace Officers and Fire Safety Officials implied consent to enter and to inspect any SOB for violations of these Regulations.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for an SOB to exclude, prohibit or prevent any Peace Officer or Fire Marshal Official from conducting an inspection authorized by these Regulations.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (e) Any violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of an Adult Motel's Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.13 AGE REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any individual(s) under the age of eighteen (18) to be on the premises of an SOB during business hours.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.14 PROHIBITED CONDUCT.

- (a) A SOB shall prevent and/or abate the following activities from occurring on the premises:
 - (1) prostitution, promotion of prostitution, or aggravated promotion of prostitution as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
 - (2) compelling prostitution as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
 - (3) employing a minor at a sexually oriented business as defined by Section 243.002 of the Local Government Code;
 - (4) trafficking of person(s) as described by Section 20A.02 of the Texas Penal Code; and/or,
 - (5) sexual conduct or performance by a child as described by Section 43.25 of the Texas Penal Code.
- (b) If three or more of the offenses listed in Subsection 2.14(a)(1)-(5) occur on the premises of the SOB within a period of 365 days, it shall constitute a violation of this subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.15 PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT.

- (a) Sexually Oriented Businesses are prohibited from employing and/or contracting with any individual who has been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty, received deferred adjudication, or who is currently charged with any of the following offenses:
 - (1) prostitution, promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, compelling prostitution, obscenity, sale distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor, sexual performance by child, or possession of child pornography as described by Chapter 43 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (2) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 20 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (3) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 21 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (4) sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault as described in Chapter 22 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (5) incest, solicitation of a child or harboring a runaway child as described in Chapter 25 of the Texas Penal Code;

- (6) gambling, gambling promotion, keeping a gambling place, communicating gambling information, possession of gambling devices or equipment, or possession of gambling paraphernalia as described in Chapter 47 of the Texas Penal Code;
- (7) forgery, credit card abuse or commercial bribery as described in a Chapter 32 of the Texas Penal Code;
- (8) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 481 Subchapter D of the Health and Safety Code;
- (9) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 34 of the Texas Penal Code;
- (10) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 352, Subchapter B of the Texas Local Government Code;
- (11) a violation of Chapter 455 of the Texas Occupations code; or,
- (12) criminal attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the foregoing offenses; or, any other offense to the laws of another state or of the United States that, if committed in this State, would have been punishable as one or more of the aforementioned offenses; and,
 - (i) less than two (2) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or of the conviction, or of the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a misdemeanor offense; or,
 - (ii) less than five (5) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or conviction, or the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a felony offense.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection shall be grounds for mandatory denial or revocation of the Class 1 SOB Permit.

2.16 POSTING HUMAN TRAFFICING INFORMATION

- (a) Each SOB shall have the duty to post a sign containing educational information regarding human trafficking including the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1(888)373-7888.
- (b) The signs must be posted at eye level adjacent to each entrance, in each public restroom and in any employee dressing room or breakroom.
- (c) The signs shall be obtained from the SOB Permit Administrator.

**SECTION 3.
CLASS 2 SOB PERMITS.**

3.1 APPLICATION.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has not been issued a Class 2 SOB permit pursuant to these Regulations to engage in any of the activities outlined in Subsection 1.4(n) (1)-(11) or 1.4(o) (1)-(11) in a SOB located in Harris County, regardless of whether that SOB has been issued a Class 1 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person engages in any of the activities outlined in Subsection 1.4(n) (1)-(11) or 1.4(o) (1)-(11) in a SOB located in Harris County without being issued a Class 2 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A complete application shall be filed with the SOB Permit Administrator. The application shall be filed on the form provided by the SOB Permit Administrator. The SOB Permit Administrator shall establish the hours when an application can be submitted.
 - (1) The Applicant shall apply in person.
 - (2) The Applicant shall be a SOB Owner and/or Employee.
 - (3) The SOB Permit Administrator shall provide the fee schedule to the Applicant. Pursuant to Section 243.009 of the Local Government Code, the fees must be based on the cost of processing the applications and investigating the applicants.
 - (4) Incomplete applications will result in denial of the application and forfeiture of the application fee.
- (e) Each complete Class 2 SOB Permit Application shall be accompanied by:
 - (1) a color copy of the Applicant's driver's license or government-issued photo identification;
 - (2) a color copy of the Applicant's social security card;
 - (3) a certification stating the Applicant has not violated, or been convicted of, any offense listed in Subsection 2.2(a)(2); and,
 - (4) a valid mailing address and e-mail address.

- (f) A Class 2 SOB Permit application shall be denied upon failure to produce all documents and information required by Subsection 3.1(e) (1)-(4).
- (g) A SOB OWNER AND/OR EMPLOYEE SHALL NOT WORK AT A SOB DURING THE PENDENCY OF THEIR APPLICATION AND SHALL WORK ONLY IF THEIR CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AND THE CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT ISSUED.
- (h) Class 2 SOB Permit, in accordance with these Regulations, is not transferable, assignable, or divisible, and it is a violation of these Regulations for any person to attempt to do so.
 - (1) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person transfers, assigns, or divides a Class 2 SOB Permit in violation of this Subsection 3.2(a) (1)-(2).

3.2 DENIAL OF A CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 2 SOB Permit shall be denied upon a finding by the SOB Permit Administrator of any of the following:
 - (1) the Applicant has violated, or is not in compliance with, any applicable Section or Subsection of these Regulations;
 - (2) the Applicant has been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty, received deferred adjudication, or who is currently charged with, any of the following offenses:
 - (i) prostitution, promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, compelling prostitution, obscenity, sale distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor, sexual performance by child, or possession of child pornography as described by Chapter 43 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (ii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 20 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (iii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 21 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (iv) sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault as described in Chapter 22 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (v) incest, solicitation of a child or harboring a runaway child as described in Chapter 25 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (vi) gambling, gambling promotion, keeping a gambling place, communicating gambling information, possession of gambling devices or equipment, or

possession of gambling paraphernalia as described in Chapter 47 of the Texas Penal Code;

- (vii) forgery, credit card abuse or commercial bribery as described in a Chapter 32 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (viii) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 481 Subchapter D of the Health and Safety Code;
 - (ix) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 34 of the Texas Penal Code;
 - (x) a criminal offense as described in Chapter 352, Subchapter B of the Texas Local Government Code;
 - (xi) a violation of Chapter 455 of the Texas Occupations code; or,
 - (xii) criminal attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the foregoing offenses; or, any other offense to the laws of another state or of the United States that, if committed in this State, would have been punishable as one or more of the aforementioned offenses; and,
 - A. less than two (2) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or of the conviction, or of the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a misdemeanor offense; or,
 - B. less than five (5) years has elapsed since the date of the violation, or conviction, or the date of release from confinement imposed by the conviction, whichever is the later date, if the violation or conviction was a felony offense.
- (3) the Applicant made a misleading statement in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit, provided false, fraudulent, or untruthful information in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit, and/or withheld pertinent information in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit;
 - (4) the Applicant is under eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (5) the Applicant has had a Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit denied within the three hundred and sixty-five (365) day period immediately preceding the date the application was filed;
 - (6) the Applicant has had a Class 1 or Class 2 SOB Permit revoked within the three hundred and sixty-five (365) day period immediately preceding the date the application was filed;

- (7) the Applicant has been sued pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code within five (5) years immediately preceding the date the application was filed; or,
 - (8) an application or renewal fee required by these Regulations has not been paid.
- (b) If any of the stated events or conditions providing a basis for denial of a Class 2 SOB Permit have occurred, the SOB Permit Administrator shall document the reason for denial in a denial letter, and provide notice the Applicant(s) by certified mail or e-mail within thirty (30) days from the date on which the denial letter was drafted by the SOB Permit Administrator. The denial letter shall provide the reason(s) for the action.

3.3 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF A CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 2 SOB Permit shall be revoked or suspended upon a finding by the SOB Permit Administrator of any of the following facts:
- (1) a SOB Owner or Employee has violated, or is not in compliance with, any applicable Section or Subsection of these Regulations;
 - (2) a SOB Owner or Employee failed to display on his/her person at all times while on the premises of a SOB, a current valid Class 2 SOB Permit issued pursuant to these Regulations;
 - (3) a SOB Owner or Employee violated any of the offense described in Subsection 3.2(a) (2) of these Regulations;
 - (4) a SOB Owner or Employee is found to be on the premises of a SOB in Harris County, and providing services to that SOB, without a Class 2 Permit for that location;
 - (5) a SOB Owner or Employee made a misleading statement in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit, provided false, fraudulent, or untruthful information in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit, and/or withheld pertinent information in the application for a Class 2 SOB Permit; or,
 - (6) the Class 2 SOB Permit should not have been issued pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) If a SOB Owner or SOB Employee is found to be in violation of 3.3(a), revocation of his/her Class 2 SOB Permit is mandatory.
- (c) If any of the stated events or conditions providing a basis for revocation or suspension of a Class 2 SOB Permit have occurred, the SOB Permit Administrator shall document the violation in a revocation or suspension letter, and provide notice the SOB Owner or SOB Employee via certified mail or e-mail within thirty (30) days from the date on which the

revocation or suspension letter was drafted by the SOB Permit Administrator. The revocation or suspension letter shall provide the reason(s) for the action. A revocation or suspension of a Class 2 SOB Permit by the SOB Permit Administrator shall become final on the seventh (7th) day after the revocation or suspension letter is mailed via certified mail.

3.4 CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT APPEALS.

- (a) If the SOB Permit Administrator denies a Class 2 SOB Permit Application, revokes a Class 2 SOB Permit, or suspends a Class 2 SOB Permit, the Applicant or SOB Owner/Employees shall have the opportunity to make a written request for a hearing before a hearing examiner appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court. The hearing examiner shall not have participated in any investigation of the alleged grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of the Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (b) All requests for hearings shall be in writing and delivered to the SOB Permit Administrator within thirty (30) days from the date when the denial, revocation, or suspension letter was transmitted by the SOB Permit Administrator. The Applicant or SOB Owner/Employees waives the right to a Class 2 SOB Permit appeal hearing if the request is not timely received by the SOB Permit Administrator.
- (c) The Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee shall be provided an opportunity to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and be represented by legal counsel. The formal rules of evidence do not apply.
- (d) It shall be the responsibility of the Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee to provide a court reporter and an interpreter if necessary for the Class 2 SOB Permit appeal hearings before the hearing examiner.
- (e) The Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee shall be present in person at the Class 2 SOB Permit appeal hearings. If the Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee is not present in person at the Class 2 SOB Permit appeal hearing, the denial or revocation of the Class 2 SOB Permit shall be automatically upheld.
- (f) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold or reverse the denial of a Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (g) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold, reverse, or modify the suspension of a Class 2 SOB Permit by ordering a shorter or longer suspension.
- (h) The hearing examiner has the power to uphold, modify or reverse the revocation of a Class 2 SOB Permit and instead order a suspension. However, if the hearing examiner finds that a violation of a particular Section or Subsection of these Regulations has occurred and that the specific violation calls for mandatory revocation, the hearing examiner shall strictly abide by that determination and shall not retroactively modify or change the status of that revocation.

- (i) The decision of the hearing examiner shall be final.
- (j) The hearing examiner shall issue a written order memorializing his/her decision within thirty (30) days from the date of the Class 2 SOB permit appeal hearing. The written order shall be distributed to the Applicant or SOB Employee, and SOB Permit Administrator via certified mail or email.
- (k) AN APPLICANT OR SOB OWNER/EMPLOYEE SHALL NOT WORK AT ANY SOB DURING THE PENDENCY OF AN APPEAL TO THE HEARING EXAMINER.

3.5 DISTRICT COURT APPEALS FOR CLASS 2 SOB PERMITS.

- (a) On final decision by the hearing examiner, the losing party may appeal the decision by filing a petition in a district court in the county with jurisdiction within thirty (30) days after the date of the decision by the hearing examiner.
- (b) Appeals to the district court shall be governed by the substantial evidence rule defined by Section 2001.174 of the Government Code.
- (c) If the Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee appeal to the hearing examiner is successful, he/she may resume employment and may work at a SOB in Harris County during the pendency of an appeal to the district court.
- (d) An Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee may not work at a SOB in Harris County pending an appeal to the district court for denial of a Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (e) An Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee may not work at a SOB in Harris County pending an appeal to the district court for revocation of a Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (f) An Applicant or SOB Owner/Employee can resume employment pending an appeal to the district court for suspension of Class 2 SOB Permit only when the suspension that has been ordered by the hearing examiner has expired.

3.6 REAPPLICATION FOR A CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) After the hearing examiner's final ruling of the denial or revocation of a Class 2 SOB Permit, an Applicant(s) may reapply for a Class 2 SOB Permit after the expiration of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days from the date of the hearing examiner's ruling.
- (b) The application will be considered a new application in regard to the timelines and fee established in Subsection 3.1.

3.7 RENEWAL OF A CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 2 SOB Permit may be renewed for the following year starting ninety (90) days before the expiration of the current permit by filing a complete application of a Class 2 SOB Permit and paying the applicable fee set forth in these Regulations.
- (b) A renewal application shall be subject to the same requirements in these Regulations as are required for a Class 2 SOB Permit application. As long as the completed renewal application was submitted within this ninety (90) day period, the previous Class 2 SOB Permit will remain in effect until the SOB Permit Administrator makes a determination in accordance with these Regulations as to whether the Class 2 SOB Permit will be renewed.

3.8 CONTENTS OF A CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT.

- (a) A Class 2 SOB Permit is valid for three hundred and sixty-five (365) days.
- (b) When the application process is complete and the Applicant has met all the requirements set forth in these Regulations, the SOB Permit Administrator shall issue the Applicant a Class 2 SOB Permit.
- (c) The Class 2 SOB Permit shall contain the following:
 - (1) The date the Permit was issued;
 - (2) The date the Permit expires;
 - (3) The name of the SOB Owner/Employee;
 - (4) A color photo of the SOB Owner/Employee;
 - (5) The name and physical address of the SOB(s) the SOB Owner/Employee is permitted to work at; and,
 - (6) The signature of the SOB Permit Administrator.
- (d) The SOB Permit Administrator shall keep a signed copy of the Class 2 SOB Permit for the SOB Permit Administrator's records.

**SECTION 4.
ADULT MOTELS.**

4.1 DEFINED.

As used in this Subsection:

- (a) An “*Adult Motel*” means a hotel, motel, or similar commercial establishment which:
 - (1) offers accommodations to the public for any form of consideration; provides patrons with closed-circuit television transmissions, cable television transmissions, subscriber programming, any disk, or other physical medium that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen by telephone line, cable, satellite transmission, or other method, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions which are characterized by the depiction or description of “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas”; and has a sign visible from the public right-of-way which advertises the availability of this type of material; and,
 - (2) regularly offers a sleeping room for rent for a period of time that is less than ten (10) hours.
- (b) Evidence that a sleeping room in a hotel, motel, or similar commercial establishment has been rented and vacated two (2) or more times in a period of time that is less than ten (10) hours shall constitute prima facie evidence that the business is an Adult Motel.

4.2 CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to operate an Adult Motel in Harris County that has not been issued a valid Class 1 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.

4.4 CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any SOB Owner or Employee to work at, be employed by, and/or provide service to an Adult Motel without being issued a valid Class 2 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.

- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of an Adult Motel's Class 1 SOB Permit.

4.5 CHECK-IN REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) Adult Motels shall not provide lodging to any guest/customer who does not present a valid government issued photo identification confirming the identity of the guest/customer. This requirement extends to all guests/customers, including individuals who intend to lodge in the same room.
- (b) Adult Motels shall make a photocopy of every guest's/customer's valid government issued photo identification and maintain the information for one (1) calendar year. These records shall be organized by the day the guest/customer was provided lodging at the Adult Motel. These records shall be made available to law enforcement upon request.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (e) A violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Motel's Class 1 SOB Permit.

4.6 APPLICATION OF GENERAL SOB REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The requirements and provisions for Adult Motels are in addition to the requirements in Section 2 of these Regulations.

**SECTION 5.
ADULT CABARETS.**

5.1 DEFINED.

As used in this Subsection:

- (a) An “*Adult Cabaret*” means a commercial establishment which has live performances which are characterized by the exposure of any portion of the areola of the breast and intended to provide sexual stimulation or gratification.

5.2 CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to operate an Adult Cabaret in Harris County that has not been issued a Class 1 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.

5.2 CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any SOB Owner or Employee to work at, be employed by, and/or provide service to an Adult Cabaret without being issued a Class 2 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of an Adult Cabaret’s Class 1 SOB Permit.

5.3 HOURS OF OPERATION.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for an Adult Cabaret to operate between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Cabaret's Class 1 SOB Permit.

5.4 PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for an Adult Cabaret to allow a SOB Owner, SOB Employee, or any other person who provides service to an Adult Cabaret to appear in a state of nudity in an area of the Adult Cabaret which can be viewed from the public right-of-way.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Cabaret's Class 1 SOB Permit.

5.5 APPLICATION OF GENERAL SOB REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The requirements and provisions for Adult Cabarets are in addition to the requirements in Section 2 of these Regulations.

**SECTION 6.
ADULT CABARET ENTERTAINERS.**

6.1 DEFINED

As used in this Subsection:

- (a) An “*Adult Cabaret Entertainer*” means an employee and/or independent contractor of an Adult Cabaret who offers a service and/or sells, rents, or exhibits devices or other items intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification.

6.2 CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT DISPLAYED.

- (a) Adult Cabaret Entertainers shall at all times display on their person their Class 2 SOB Permit issued to them pursuant to the Regulations while on the premises of an Adult Cabaret.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Cabaret Entertainer’s Class 2 SOB Permit.

6.3 SIX (6) FEET RULE.

- (a) It is prohibited for any Adult Cabaret Entertainer to perform at an Adult Cabaret within six (6) feet of the nearest patron.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Entertainer’s Class 2 SOB Permit.

6.4 PROHIBITED CONDUCT.

- (a) Adult Cabaret Entertainers are prohibited from:
 - (1) exposing any portions of the pubic region, genitals, vulva, and or anus on the premises of an Adult Cabaret;
 - (2) engaging in sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, oral copulation, flagellation or any other public sexual acts on the premises of an Adult Cabaret;
 - (3) engaging in prostitution, promotion of prostitution, or aggravated promotion of prostitution as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
 - (4) engaging in compelling prostitution as defined by the Texas Penal Code;
 - (5) engaging in trafficking of person(s) as described by Section 20A.02 of the Texas Penal Code; or,
 - (6) engaging in sexual conduct or performance by a child as described by Section 43.25 of the Texas Penal Code.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of an Adult Entertainer's Class 2 SOB Permit.

SECTION 7.
ADULT BOOKSTORES, ADULT THEATERS AND ADULT ARCADES.

7.1 DEFINED.

As used in this Subsection:

- (a) “**Adult Arcades**” means a commercial business to which the public is permitted or invited to interact with a device as follows:
 - (1) coin-operated or slug-operated or electronically, electrically, or mechanically controlled still or motion picture machines, projectors, or other image-producing devices are maintained to show images to five (5) or fewer persons per machine at any one time, and where the images so displayed are distinguished or characterized by the depiction or description of “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas;” or,
 - (2) a device or object including an anthropomorphic device or object designed for one or more persons to engage in specified sexual activities with the device or object.
- (b) “**Adult Bookstore**” means a commercial business to which the public is permitted or invited which, as its principal business purpose, offers for sale or rental for any form of consideration any one (1) or more of the following:
 - (1) books, magazines, periodicals, or other printed matter, or photographs, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, or video reproductions, slides, or other visual representations which depict or describe “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas.”
- (c) “**Adult Theater**” means a commercial establishment that regularly shows, for any form of consideration, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides or similar photographic reproductions which are characterized by the depiction or description of specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

7.2 CLASS 1 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to operate an Adult Bookstore, Adult Theater or an Adult Arcade in Harris County that has not been issued a Class 1 SOB Permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.

7.3 CLASS 2 SOB PERMIT REQUIRED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any Adult Bookstore, Adult Theater or an Adult Arcade SOB Owner, SOB Employee, employee, and/or any other person otherwise offering a service and/or selling, renting, or exhibiting devices or any other items intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to work at, be employed by, and/or provide service to an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade without being issued a Class 2 SOB Permit pursuant to the Regulations.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) A violation of this Subsection shall result in mandatory denial or revocation of an Adult Bookstore, Adult Theater or an Adult Arcade's Class 1 SOB Permit

7.4 HOURS OF OPERATION.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for an Adult Bookstore, Adult Theater or an Adult Arcade to operate between the hours of 2 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (d) Any violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of an Adult Bookstore's, Adult Theater's or an Adult Arcade's Class 1 SOB Permit.

7.5 VIEWING ROOMS/VIEWING BOOTHS

- (a) Viewing rooms and/or viewing booths within an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade shall be occupied by no more than one (1) person at any time.
- (b) Viewing rooms and/or viewing booths within an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade shall not be locked at any time.
- (c) Viewing room(s) and/or viewing booth(s) within an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade shall not have holes and/or openings between adjacent and/or adjoining viewing rooms and/or viewing booths.

- (d) Live Entertainment is prohibited in any viewing room and/or viewing booth within an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade.
- (e) Pursuant to Section 243.010(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person operates in violation of this Subsection.
- (f) Pursuant to Section 243.010(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Subsection.
- (g) Any violation of this Subsection may be grounds for denial, revocation or suspension of an Adult Bookstore or an Adult Arcade's Class 1 SOB Permit.

7.6 APPLICATION OF GENERAL SOB REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The requirements and provisions for Adult Bookstores, Adult Theaters and Adult Arcades are in addition to the requirements in Section 2 of these Regulations.

**SECTION 8.
MASSAGE PARLORS**

8.1 AUTHORITY TO REGULATE.

- (a) The regulations on Massage Parlors are promulgated pursuant to and in conformity with Chapter 234 of the Local Government Code, as amended.
- (b) It is the purpose of the Harris County Commissioners Court to exercise its police power, as established under Chapter 234 of the Local Government Code, to prohibit Massage Parlors in order to promote and protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Unincorporated Harris County, and to prohibit business activities which merely serve as a front for criminal activities, including but not limited to, prostitution and the promotion of prostitution.
- (c) The regulations on Massage Parlors have neither the intent nor the effect of imposing limits or restrictions on the content of any communicative material, including sexually oriented material.
- (d) The regulations on Massage Parlors have neither the intent nor the effect of imposing limits or restrictions on adult's access to sexually oriented material protected by the First Amendment.
- (e) These Regulations do not legalize anything prohibited under the Texas Penal Code and any other law(s) or regulation(s).

8.2 AREAS COVERED BY THESE REGULATIONS.

- (a) These regulations apply to Massage Parlors located in unincorporated area of Harris County.

8.3 DEFINITIONS.

- (a) “*Harris County*” means the parts of Harris County, Texas outside the corporate limits of a municipality.
- (b) “*Massage Parlor*” means a business establishment that purports to provide services and that allows:
 - (1) a nude person to provide massage service to a customer;
 - (2) a person to engage in sexual contact for compensation; or,

- (3) a person to provide massage services in clothing intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.
- (c) “*Nude*” means a person who is:
 - (1) entirely unclothed; or,
 - (2) clothed in a manner that leave uncovered or visible through less than fully opaque clothing any portion of the breasts below the top of the areola of the breasts or any portion of the genitals or buttocks..
- (d) “*Sexual Contact*” means:
 - (1) any touching of any part of the genitalia or anus;
 - (2) any touching of the breasts of a female without the written consent of the female;
 - (3) any offer or agreement to engage in any activity described in Paragraph (1) or (2);
 - (4) kissing without the consent of both persons;
 - (5) deviate sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual intercourse, indecent exposure, sex assault, prostitution, and promotions of prostitution as described in Chapter 21, 22, and 43 of the Texas Penal Code, or any offer or agreement to engage in such activities;
 - (6) any behavior, gesture, or expression that may reasonably be interpreted as inappropriately seductive or sexual; or,
 - (7) inappropriate sexual comments about or to a client, including sexual comments about a person’s body.

8.4 MESSAGE PARLORS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, individual, business, company, corporation, or other entity to operate a Massage Parlor in Harris County.
- (b) Pursuant to section 234.105 of the Local Government Code, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly operates a Massage Parlor in Harris County. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (c) Pursuant to section 234.104 of the Local Government Code, a person who operate a Massage Parlor in Harris County is liable to the county for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each day a violation continues is considered a separate violation

for purposes of assessing the civil penalty. Harris County may bring suit in district court to recover a civil penalty authorized by these Regulations.

- (d) Pursuant to section 234.103 of the Local Government Code, Harris County may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation of this Section or Subsection against any person or entity who maintains, owns, uses, is a party to the use, or who owns the real property where the violation or threatened violation of this Subsection is occurring and/or has occurred.

**SECTION 9.
ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.**

9.1 SEVERANCE CLAUSE.

The Commissioners Court hereby declares the adoption of these Regulations and each separate part hereof. Any part of these Regulations held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

9.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECT.

Authority under these Regulations is cumulative of other authority that Harris County and its incorporated municipalities have to regulate SOBs and does not limit that authority.