

Title 02. Department of Permits and Development Management
Subtitle 02. Permits and Licensing
Chapter 01. Amusement Halls and Skating Rinks

Authority: Section 21-4-307, Baltimore County Code, 2003

.01 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to require practices and behaviors of licensees to prevent excessive noise, traffic congestion, vandalism or other activities or crimes on or about the premises of an amusement hall or roller skating rink that may constitute a nuisance or that lead to the arrest or detention of patrons, business invitees or guests of the amusement hall or roller skating rink.

.02 Definitions.

A. Terms defined.

In this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Amusement hall.

“Amusement hall” means a commercial establishment that:

- (1) provides live or recorded entertainment, with or without a dance floor;
- (2) is operated for profit;
- (3) is subject to the admissions and amusement tax; and
- (4) does not have a Baltimore County liquor license.

C. Code.

“Code” means the Baltimore County Code, 2003.

D. Department.

“Department” means the Department of Permits and Development Management.

E. Director.

“Director” means the director of the department or the director’s designee.

F. Licensee.

“Licensee” includes the operator, agent, or employee of a licensed amusement hall or roller skating rink.

G. Roller skating rink.

“Roller skating rink” means a facility used for roller skating that is open to the public and operated for profit.

.03 Scope of license.

- A. A license to operate an amusement hall or roller skating rink is only a license to operate as an amusement hall or roller skating rink and any activities that may be accessory to the operation of an amusement hall or roller skating rink, as applicable.
- B. The determination of an activity that is accessory to the operation of an amusement hall or roller skating rink is solely in the discretion of the director.
- C. If a roller skating rink licensee intends to provide live or recorded entertainment for profit for any purpose other than accompanying skaters as they skate, the licensee shall apply for a license to operate an amusement hall during those hours when such entertainment shall be provided.
- D. This regulation may not be construed to supersede any other provision of the Code or Baltimore County Zoning Regulations.

.04 Hours of operation.

- A. An amusement hall or rolling skating rink may not be operative between the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- B. §A of this Regulation does not apply to time required by a licensee to maintain the amusement hall or roller skating rink, including clean-up, set-up for the next opening and other managerial or operational requirements.
- C. The licensee is responsible for providing sufficient staff to ensure that patrons, business invitees or guests of the amusement hall or roller skating rink leave the premises and any parking lot adjoining the premises within a reasonable time, but not more than 30 minutes, after the amusement hall or roller skating rink closes.
- D. Special activities.

(1) An amusement hall or roller skating rink may operate between the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m. in order to host an official activity of a school in the Baltimore County Public School System.

(2) The amusement hall or roller skating rink shall apply for a permit to operate between the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m. on a form provided by the director not later than 45 days before the activity.

(3) The application shall require the applicant to include a security plan, to be approved by the Police Department, for inside the amusement hall or roller skating rink and any parking lot adjoining the premises.

.05 Enforcement.

A. The purpose of this Regulation is to provide the director and licensee the ability to agree to enforcement steps to remedy problems without resorting to the director's authority to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke a license under § 21-4-304 of the Code or to impose a civil penalty under § 21-4-309 of the Code.

B. In lieu of denying, refusing to renew, suspending, or revoking a license as authorized under § 21-4-304 of the Code, or imposing a civil penalty under § 21-4-309 of the Code, if the director finds that an amusement hall or roller skating rink is the subject of a disproportionate number of complaints for the failures stated in § 21-4-304(b)(2) of the Code or after an especially egregious event that the director deems a failure under § 21-4-304(b)(2) of the Code, the director and the licensee may agree to the placement of certain temporary or permanent restrictions on the license including, but not limited to:

- (1) further limitation of the hours of operation;
- (2) limitations on the number of patrons, business invitees or guests;
- (3) specified requirements for enhanced security; or
- (4) any other temporary or permanent restrictions on the license considered necessary by the director.

C. The director is solely authorized to determine whether there has been a failure as stated in § 21-4-304(b)(2) of the Code that would authorize the use of this Regulation.

D. Notwithstanding §A or §B of this Regulation, the director reserves the right to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke a license under § 21-4-304 of the Code or to impose a civil penalty under § 21-4-309 of the Code at any time.

E. An agreement under this Regulation is not subject to appeal but may be repealed or amended by mutual agreement of the parties.

Administrative History

COBAR Title 02, Subtitle 02, Chapter 01 initially adopted on July 2, 2009.