

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Repeal of Obsolete Provisions in Chapter 3, Amusements, of the Charlottesville City Code
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	May 18, 2026

Issue

Whether City Council should repeal the two remaining operative provisions in Chapter 3, **Amusements**, of the City Code because they are antiquated, no longer used in City operations, and unnecessary in light of the City's current regulatory and administrative practices.

Background / Rule

Chapter 3 of the City Code currently contains two operative provisions.

Section 3-1 regulates minors being employed in, playing in, remaining in, or frequenting billiard saloons or poolrooms. The provision includes detailed restrictions based on age, building layout, interior visibility, lighting, alcohol service, and the number and size of pool tables.

Section 3-2 requires a person conducting a carnival or similar exhibition in the City to deposit \$50 per day with the City Treasurer to cover the cost of additional City services associated with the event. The provision also authorizes the Chief of Police to designate police personnel as necessary for policing the carnival or exhibition.

These provisions are antiquated and are not part of the City's current approach to business regulation, public safety planning, event permitting, or cost recovery. The proposed ordinance would repeal Sections 3-1 and 3-2 and reserve Chapter 3 for future use.

Analysis

Staff recommends repealing Sections 3-1 and 3-2.

Section 3-1 reflects an outdated regulatory approach to poolrooms and billiard saloons. The City no longer regulates these establishments through this type of stand-alone provision, and any modern public safety, licensing, zoning, alcohol, or youth-related issues are more appropriately addressed through generally applicable state law, business licensing requirements, zoning regulations, ABC regulations, and other current legal tools.

Section 3-2 is likewise outdated. The City does not currently rely on this provision to manage carnivals, exhibitions, special events, or related public safety needs. Current event review and permitting practices provide a more appropriate mechanism for evaluating public safety, traffic, operational, and cost-recovery concerns associated with events.

Repealing these provisions will remove obsolete language from the City Code without limiting the City's ability to regulate businesses, events, public safety issues, or the use of public property through current

laws and procedures. Reserving Chapter 3 will preserve the Code structure and avoid unnecessary renumbering.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact. The City is not currently collecting fees or deposits under these provisions.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council approve the ordinance repealing Sections 3-1 and 3-2 of Chapter 3 of the City Code and reserving Chapter 3 for future use.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move to approve the ordinance repealing Sections 3-1 and 3-2 of Chapter 3, Amusements, of the Charlottesville City Code and reserving Chapter 3 for future use.

Optional: I further move that City Council waive the requirement for a second reading of this ordinance and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Repealing Section 3-1 and 3-2 of the City Code