



Extended Hours Licensing: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What does the 2012 ordinance affect?

A. Effective June 1, 2012, the City Code (Ordinance 153-12-B) includes:

- Businesses may apply to have the same extended hours of alcohol sales throughout the City. Therefore businesses outside the Western Sunrise Entertainment District (WSED) may receive approval for alcohol sales until 3 a.m. the following morning Sunday through Thursday and 4 a.m. the following morning Friday and Saturday. Previously, businesses in the WSED could receive approval for one hour more than those outside the special district.
- Provides for more flexible coordination of off-duty police and security officers according to recommendations from the Chief of Police.
- Clarifies some requirements of license approval with more specific submittal information.

Q. Do existing Extended Hours Licenses still need to be renewed?

A. Yes, businesses still need to apply to renew Extended Hours Licenses annually.

Q. Are there any changes to the renewal process of an existing Extended Hours License?

A. Yes, there are new requirements which will now need to be submitted with the annual renewal such as records of any new employee for training for compliance with the Florida Responsible Vendor Act.

Q. What are the limitations on sale of alcohol?

A. City Code specifies:

- The hours that businesses are permitted to serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.;
- Establishes a definition of “nightclub”;
- Establishes the boundaries of the Western Sunrise Entertainment District (WSED):
the Sawgrass Expressway on the west; Oakland Park Boulevard on the north; Flamingo Road on the east; a southern boundary consisting of Sunrise Boulevard east of NW 136th Ave and 1400 feet south of the southern edge of the right-of-way of Sunrise Boulevards west of NW 136th Avenue (Sec. 16-82 b.);
- Permits nightclubs to operate by right in the WSED and to operate in the B-3 and B-3A zoning districts after a special exception use approval by the City Commission.

Q. What are the hours that establishments may serve alcoholic beverages?

A. Until 1:00 AM, seven days per week. This applies to establishments that currently serve alcoholic beverages on premises, regardless of what type of liquor license one holds or what type of establishment one has (bar, restaurant or nightclub).

Q. Is there anything that an establishment may do to be permitted to serve alcohol beyond 1:00 AM?

A. The owner or owner's representative of an establishment may apply for an EXTENDED HOURS LICENSE. If approved, the Extended Hours License will allow establishments to serve alcohol until 3:00 AM the following morning Sunday through Thursday and until 4:00 AM the following morning on Friday and Saturday. However, establishments that have a maximum capacity set by the City's Building and Fire Official of 50 or fewer persons are not required to obtain an Extended Hours License to remain open beyond 1:00 AM.

Q. How do I apply for the Extended Hours License?

A. The first step is to complete the Extended Hours License Application. You may obtain the application at the City's Community Development Department or you may [download a PDF of the file](#).

Q. How long will it take to go through the approval process for an Extended Hours License?

A. If the application that you submit is completed correctly and all of the supporting documentation is in order, the application should be reviewed by the City's Development Review Committee (DRC) within 30 to 60 days. Based on the consensus of the DRC, the Director of the Community Development Department will recommend to the City Commission that the application be approved, approved with conditions, or denied. A public hearing for the application will then be scheduled before the City Commission.

Q. How much will this cost?

A. The application fee is established on a sliding scale based on the gross building size (square footage) of the given establishment. There are also additional fees to cover the cost of public notification and criminal background check(s).

Q. When reviewing an application for an Extended Hours License, what sort of things will be considered?

A. First and foremost, consideration will be given to the amount and degree of law enforcement activities generated by the operation of the establishment. Additionally, all owners, managers or others with a proprietary interest in the business will be subject to a criminal background check. The impact that the business has on the surrounding neighborhood will also be analyzed. This will include things such as noise levels, automobile ingress and egress and parking availability. Other factors that will be considered include:

- a. the applicant must comply with the state of Florida Responsible Vendor Act;
- b. if there are security cameras on the premises;
- c. the establishment must post and offer free taxi cab rides or towing to intoxicated people;

- d. that the establishment participates in the City’s “No Trespass” program in an attempt to discourage loitering;
- e. if at least 40% of the gross sales of the establishment are derived from food sales;
- f. the establishment’s ability to offer full course meals during all hours of operation;
- g. the amount of contiguous gross floor space dedicated to dining, exclusive of any bar area;
- h. the seating accommodations;
- i. compliance with all Federal, State and local health department regulations pertaining to the storage, preparation and serving of food.

Q. What is the “No Trespass” program? How do I find out more about it?

A. The “No Trespass” program is a free program administered by the City of Sunrise Police Department. Call 954-746-3383 for details.

Q. Is the Extended Hours License renewable?

A. Yes, it must be renewed annually.

Q. What happens if, after obtaining my Extended Hours License, I am found to be noncompliant with a condition of approval?

A. In this case, the license holder will appear before the City Commission for a hearing. The Commission will determine whether the Extended Hours License should be revoked.

Q. What happens if my Extended Hours License is revoked?

A. If your license is revoked, no reapplication shall be considered for your establishment for a period of one year following the date of revocation.

Q. Will my Extended Hours License expire?

A. Yes, the Extended Hours License will expire at the end of one year unless it is renewed (six months for a contingent license).

Q. What is the process for renewal?

A. Application for renewal will be reviewed again by DRC by applying the same criteria that was used to determine if the originally issued license was appropriate. Renewal does not require a City Commission hearing. This means that you will want to begin the renewal process 60 days or so prior to the expiration date of the current license. This will provide ample time for the DRC and Director of Community Development Department to review the renewal application.

Q. If I have obtained an Extended Hours License for one location and decide to open another establishment at a different location within the City or if I close the licensed location and reopen elsewhere in the City, is my license transferable to the new location?

A. An Extended Hours License is not transferable to a new location. A new application review will have to be completed for the new or additional location.

Q. If I sell my business can I transfer the Extended Hours License to the new owner?

A. Yes, if the operation of the business remains identical to that described in the original license application and the new owner files for a transfer of the license within 30 days.

Q. What are the criteria to be classified as a nightclub?

A. There are a number of criteria that will be considered when determining if an establishment will fall within the nightclub category. The criteria are in the definition in section 16-277 of City Code as summarized below:

The establishment charges a cover charge, door charge or membership fee, or the establishment has a minimum drink requirement,

OR

the establishment meets any **four** of the following criteria, “a” through “f”:

- a. There is a dance floor or an area to view entertainment. This area can be dedicated for this use or created by rearranging or stacking tables and chairs;
- b. The establishment is open to the public between the hours of 1:00 AM and 8:00 AM any given day of the week;
- c. The maximum capacity of the establishment is deemed to be 200 occupants or more per the City of Sunrise fire and/or building personnel;
- d. Alcohol is sold and consumed on the premises;
- e. Advertisements routinely describe specific entertainment oriented events or engagements that will occur at the establishment;
- f. The establishment has a platform or musical staging area used in connection with entertainment. The presence of karaoke machines shall not be deemed entertainment for the purpose of this definition. Likewise, the presence of live entertainment provided by one person, not utilizing pre-recorded music shall not be deemed entertainment for the purpose of this definition.

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