

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** April 26, 2021
SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance No. 3690, granting new businesses which received a Certificate of Occupancy between February 18, 2020 and March 10, 2021 an extension to apply for a Grand Opening Sign Permit.
PRESENTER: Clayton Comstock, Planning Director

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted many local businesses' opportunity for opening and growing in North Richland Hills. On March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-08, the first of many executive orders and clarifications restricting business occupancies in Texas meant to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The unfortunate consequence of these health and safety restrictions was lost revenue opportunity for North Richland Hills businesses, although other grant programs helped during this time. On March 10, 2021, Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-34 lifting all COVID-19 related operating limits for businesses in Texas went into effect.

Staff has drafted the attached Ordinance 3690 for City Council's consideration, which extends the eligibility for new businesses who received their Certificate of Occupancy between February 18, 2020 (a 30-day period before March 19, 2020) and March 10, 2021 to apply for their grand opening sign permit by November 1, 2021. It also allows a business that meets that same criteria and already utilized their grand opening sign permit one additional grand opening sign permit prior to November 1, 2021.

A companion Work Session item is present on the April 26 Work Session agenda for City Council to consider any changes or additions to the ordinance that may be desired.

Under normal circumstances, grand opening sign permits must be applied for within 180 days of issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and allows for a 30-day sign permit. During that 30-day period, signage may include any combination of oversized banners, pennants, inflatable signs and balloons, searchlights, and a portable sign. No permit fee is required for a grand opening sign permit. For the full list of provisions, [see Sec. 106-13\(c\)\(10\) of the Sign Code.](#)

This ordinance is intended to meet the Economic Development Strategic Plan goal of "promoting a positive business climate" and the Vision2030 Land Use Plan Strategy 3.1 to "retain and grow our current businesses."



RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance No. 3690.