

ORDINANCE 2016-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 14, APPENDIX A, OF THE "ZONING CODE" TO ANNUALLY PERMIT, SUBJECT TO COMMISSION APPROVAL, THE USE OF CHURCHES AND OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP FOR SPECIFIC CHARITABLE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade is a residential community that, for the benefit of its citizens and consistent with its historical activities, has accommodated other activities such as churches, its municipal buildings, a historic home and a country club as complementary to the beauty and property values of the City;

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade in Title 14, Appendix A of its Code regulates the activities of churches and other places of worship;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the City of Belle Meade have determined to facilitate the expanded outreach of churches, especially to further the eleemosynary purposes of the churches, so that they may engage in other charitable and/or fundraising activities on the church grounds pursuant to application to the Commissioners of the City of Belle Meade;

WHEREAS, the City desires to assure that such activities contribute to, and do not disrupt, the essential residential character of the City;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have determined that the best means to balance the desire of the churches to broaden the scope of their charitable activities with the interests of the City is to annually allow churches to seek a permit for certain activities, such permit to be granted in the sole discretion of the Commissioners without regard to historical precedent for such activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is accordingly ordered that Title 14, Appendix A of the Zoning

Code should be amended to add the following Section 8 as follows:

(8) Activities:

- (a) Prior to the commencement of any new activity on church grounds, a church or place of worship shall request a permit for activities to be conducted on the church grounds during the course of the following twelve month period.
- (b) The permit shall be reviewed and resolved by the commissioners at the next scheduled meeting of the board of commissioners for which there has been provided timely notice of the review of the permit.
- (c) In reviewing the request for permit, the commissioners shall be provided with such information as they might request to balance the interests of the church in the activity with the rights of the citizens of the City of Belle Meade, including but not limited to:
 - (i) A detailed description of the nature of the activities, and the actions required to prepare for and disassemble the activity upon completion;
 - (ii) Dates of activities;
 - (iii) Hours of operation for activities;
 - (iv) Specific location of activities, including whether inside or outside church buildings, and, if outside:
 - a) Specifically where on the church grounds;
 - b) Approximate square footage required for the activity and the approximate number of parking places required by the activity; and
 - c) Such other information as may be necessary to assess the impact on the

traffic on the streets of the City of Belle Meade.

(v) The terms and conditions of any other permitting required for such activities.

(vi) The name and telephone number of that representative of the church who shall be available at all times during the activity if the City of Belle Meade needs to contact the church about such activity.

(vii) A description of any signage, including way-finding signage, to be used in connection with each activity.

(a) All signage shall comply with the other provisions of this Code.

(d) The church or place of worship shall be subject to all ordinances dealing with sound emissions and other police power functions of the City of Belle Meade, and it shall be responsible for any violations thereof occurring on its premises.

(e) The church or place of worship shall provide on-site parking for all vehicles bringing visitors to the church or place of worship for such activities.

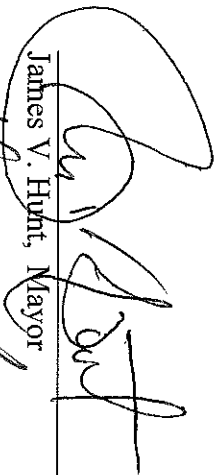
(f) The church or place of worship shall provide insurance for such activities and shall indemnify and hold harmless the City of Belle Meade from any and all liability arising as a result of such activity.

Passed on first reading:

April 20, 2016

Passed on Second Reading:

April 27, 2016



James V. Hunt, Mayor



Linda Berner, City Recorder