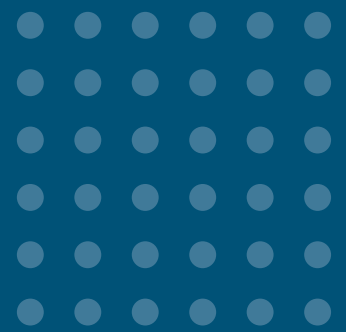




CITY OF  
**WICHITA**



# License Suspension/Revocation and License Hearing/Appeal Modification Request



Wichita Police Department

April 12, 2022



# Background



- Hearings on appeals of administrative actions such as suspension of liquor, entertainment and massage licenses are presented in regularly scheduled City Council meetings.



# Background



- Many of the crimes associated with violations that merit suspension of these types of licenses are crimes investigated by undercover officers.
- Televising the hearing before the City Council puts undercover officers in the public light and exposes their identity and investigation techniques.



# Background



- These crimes can be of a sensitive nature and may not be suitable to be presented in televised meetings.
- Due to the length of a hearing, it would be difficult for City Council to conduct regular business and host an appeal.
- The Wichita Police Department foresees the number of license suspension increasing in the future.



# New Proposed Panel



- Once an appeal has been filed, a panel of three City Council Members will be rotated to sit on the Appeal Panel.
- The panel of three City Council Members shall be chosen on a rotating basis.
- The council member representing the district where the business is located may volunteer to be one of the three members on the panel but is not required to serve.
- The hearing will be set no later than 30 days from when the appeal is filed and will not be held during a weekly council meeting.



# New Proposed Panel



- New process will not be televised but will be audio recorded and open to the public.
- Audio testimony will be allowed, and no undercover law enforcement will be made to testify in a manner to reveal their appearance.



# Benefits of Changing the Appeal Process



- The change to a hearing panel is intended to streamline the appellate process.
- Moving from the current process will eliminate the identification of officers doing the enforcement in an undercover capacity.
- It will allow the officers to directly testify in a license hearing and be available for cross examination.





# Benefits of Changing the Appeal Process



- It will keep sensitive matters from being televised in open council and keep the integrity of operations intact.
- It will also keep council meetings from being interrupted by hours long hearings over one topic.



# Recommendation



- Place the ordinance on first reading and authorize necessary signatures.





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