

# **AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SEXUALLY-ORIENTED BUSINESSES**

## **Section 1. Title.**

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Alamance County Sexually-Oriented Businesses Ordinance" (hereinafter referred to as "Ordinance").

## **Section 2. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish standards for the location, licensing, operation, and appearance of sexually-oriented businesses located on property within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction. These standards are necessary in order to mitigate adverse secondary impacts on the community, which may include increases in crime rates, decreases in neighboring property values, and disturbances of the peace. Important and substantial governmental interests in preventing deleterious effects and protecting the integrity of neighborhoods provide a constitutional basis for reasonable regulation of the time, place, and manner under which sexually-oriented businesses may operate in Alamance County.

## **Section 3. Authority and Enactment.**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance, pursuant to the authority granted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina in General Statutes Chapter 160A, Section 181.1, and Chapter 153A, Sections 121 and 140, hereby ordains and enacts into law these articles and sections.

## **Section 4. Jurisdiction.**

This ordinance governs the location and operation of sexually-oriented businesses on property that falls within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction.

## **Section 5. Definitions.**

(a) Adult bookstore. An establishment or business which

1. Receives a majority of its gross income during any calendar month from the sale or rental of publications (including books, magazines, other periodicals, videotapes, compact discs, DVDs, or another photographic, electronic,

magnetic, or imaging medium) which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas; or

2. Has as a preponderance (either in terms of the weight and importance of the material or in terms of greater volume of materials) of its publications (including books, magazines, other periodicals, videotapes, compact discs, DVDs, or another photographic, electronic, magnetic, or imaging medium) which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

- (b) Adult establishment. An adult bookstore, adult motion picture theatre, adult mini-motion picture theatre, adult live entertainment business, adult motel, escort service, or massage business as defined in this section. This term shall also include establishments and businesses that feature servers and employees who display specified anatomical areas, as defined below.
- (c) Adult live entertainment. Any performance of or involving the actual presence of real individuals which exhibits specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, as defined in this section. This term shall not include live theatre performances which have serious literary, artistic, or political value.
- (d) Adult live entertainment business. Any establishment or business wherein adult live entertainment is shown for observation by patrons.
- (e) Adult mini motion picture theatre. An enclosed building with viewing booths designed to hold patrons which is used for presenting motion pictures, a preponderance of which are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas as defined by this section, for observation by patrons therein.
- (f) Adult motel. A hotel, motel, or establishment that offers, to the public for any form of consideration, accommodations which provide patrons with closed-circuit television transmissions, films, motion pictures, videotapes, compact discs, DVDs, or another photographic, electronic, or magnetic imaging medium that depicts or describes specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas as one of its principal business purposes.
- (g) Adult motion picture. A motion picture which is distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, as defined in this section. This term shall not include motion pictures which have serious artistic, political, or scientific value.
- (h) Adult motion picture theatre. An enclosed building or premises used for presenting

adult motion pictures for observation by patrons therein. This term shall not include motion picture theatre establishments which present films of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

- (i) Escort service. An establishment or business that coordinates the provision of companionship for a fee. This does not involve the arrangement of assignments or prostitution, nor does it include businesses which provide companionship as an ancillary part of health care, mental health, or child supervisory services.
- (j) Genitals. Male or female organs of sex and excretion. This includes the anus, penis, testicles, vulva, vagina, clitoris, and *mons veneris*. This term does not include female breasts.
- (k) Major residential subdivision. A housing subdivision that includes five (5) or more lots which have been approved for residential purposes.
- (l) Massage. The manipulation of body muscle or tissue by rubbing, stroking, kneading, or tapping by hand or mechanical device.
- (m) Massage business. An establishment or business wherein massage is practiced. This includes establishments commonly known as health clubs, physical culture studios, or massage parlors.
- (n) Private Club. An establishment or business that is organized and operated solely for a social, recreational, patriotic, or fraternal purpose and that is not open to the general public, but only to bona fide members and their guests. A private club has a formal membership application process and maintains a current listing of its members. This term does not include establishments or businesses that merely charge a fee for entrance to the general public.
- (o) Private parts. Male or female genitalia. This term includes the anus, penis, testicles, vulva, vagina, clitoris, and *mons veneris*. This term does not include buttocks or female breasts.
- (p) Public place. An area which is accessible to the public at large, but is not necessarily a place devoted solely to the uses of the public. This term includes private businesses that are open to the public during regular business hours.
- (q) Repair. To fix a portion of a property that has sustained damage through an action or event that was not under the property owner's control or consciously contemplated by the property owner. This does not include remedial actions that will affect more than fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value of the property.
- (r) Replace. To fix an entire property or a substantial amount of a property that has sustained damage through an action or event that was not under the property owner's control or consciously contemplated by the property owner. This includes

remedial actions that will affect more than fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value of the property. Replacement may also include acts of substitution that are not remedial in nature and are designed simply to upgrade a property or substantial portion of a property.

- (s) Sexually-oriented devices. Any artificial or simulated specified anatomical areas or other devices or paraphernalia that are designed principally for specified sexual activities. This term does not include contraceptive devices.
- (t) Sexually-oriented secondary business activity. A sexually-oriented business activity that occurs on the premises of an establishment or business where the primary purpose is not the sale of sexually-oriented materials, publications, or devices; the presentation of adult live entertainment; or the presentation of adult motion pictures. This sexually-oriented business activity does not constitute the majority of a business' income or a preponderance of a business' inventory or display materials.
- (u) Specified anatomical areas. Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, or female breast(s) below a point immediately above the top of the aureole. This term also includes human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered.
- (v) Specified sexual activities. Real or simulated conduct of a sexual nature which includes
  1. Human genitals and/or female breasts in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal; or
  2. Vaginal or oral sexual intercourse; or
  3. Acts of human masturbation; or
  4. Sodomy; or
  5. Fondling or other erotic touchings of human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, or female breasts; or
  6. Lewd exhibitions of uncovered human genitals; or
  7. Excretory functions; or
  8. Bestiality; or
  9. An act or condition that depicts torture, physical restraint by being fettered or bound, or flagellation of or by a nude person or a person clad in undergarments or in revealing or bizarre costume.

## **Section 6. Administration.**

- (a) The Alamance County Sheriff & Planning Director shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance. This person(s) shall hereinafter be referred to as "Administrator" for the purposes of this Ordinance.
- (b) The Administrator, in accordance with this Ordinance and North Carolina law, may seek to compel corrective action through the assessment of civil penalties or by obtaining an Order of Abatement, injunctions, or other remedies provided by applicable state law.

## **Section 7. Restrictions on Location of Sexually-Oriented Businesses.**

- (a) No adult bookstore, adult motion picture theatre, adult mini motion picture theatre, adult motel, adult live entertainment business, massage business, or other adult establishment shall be located within one thousand (1,000) feet of any other adult establishment that is regulated by this Ordinance.
- (b) No building, premises, structure, or other facility that contains any adult establishment may contain another adult establishment.
- (c) No adult establishment shall be located within one thousand (1,000) feet of another building, premises, structure, or other facility that contains a sexually-oriented secondary business activity.
- (d) No adult establishment may be located within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of a park, school, house of worship, community center, or child day care center.
- (e) No adult establishment may be located within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of a major residential subdivision.

## **Section 8. Waiver of Location Requirement.**

- (a) A property owner may petition the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance to waive the location requirement(s) established in Section 7, above. A petition should contain the name and address of the property owner, a description of the use(s) and size of the proposed adult establishment, and a preliminary plan for the property.
- (b) If the Board finds that the proposed use will not be contrary to the public interest or injurious to nearby properties, and that the spirit and intent of this Ordinance will be observed, it may waive the location requirement.

- (c) A denial of a waiver request may be appealed to the Alamance County Superior Court within thirty (30) days of the decision.

**Section 9. Licensing Requirements for Sexually-Oriented Businesses.**

- (a) It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to operate any adult establishment in Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction without a license issued pursuant to this section.
- (b) Any individual or entity desiring to operate an adult establishment on property located within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction must apply to the Alamance County Planning Department for a license. This application shall include
  1. The name and address of the owner(s);
  2. The physical address of the property, including tax map block and lot numbers;
  3. The name and addresses of the agent(s) and officers, if the applicant is a corporation;
  4. The name and address of the operator(s), if different from the owner(s); and
  5. A copy of a valid form of government-issued photo identification for each owner, operator, and agent. This photo identification may include a driver's license, United States passport, United States military identification card, a state identification card, or any other form of photo identification considered reliable by the Administrator.
- (c) A non-refundable license fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall accompany the application.
- (d) Upon submission of the license application, a criminal background check shall be performed upon the owner(s), operator(s), and agent(s), if applicable. This background check shall be conducted in order to determine whether the individual(s) has been convicted of any sexually-related crimes.
- (e) The review period for the license application, including criminal background check, shall not exceed a period of twenty-one (21) business days.
- (f) If the applicant(s) follows the above application procedure and satisfactorily passes the criminal background check, a license to operate an adult establishment shall be issued. This license attaches only to the business and is valid for one (1) year or for the period of ownership by the applicant(s), whichever is shorter.

- (g) A license may be renewed for one (1) year upon its expiration with the payment of a renewal fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) to the Alamance County Planning Department.
- (h) If the background check reveals that any of the above individuals has been convicted of a sexually-oriented or drug related felony within the past fifteen (15) years or a sexually-oriented or drug related misdemeanor within the past ten (10) years, the license shall be denied. Failure to follow the application procedure outlined above shall also result in a denial of the application.
- (i) A denial of the application shall be issued in writing by the Planning Director and sent to the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested. This denial shall contain the reason(s) for refusing to issue the license and shall advise the applicant of the availability of the appeal procedure outlined in Section 14, below.

**Section 10. Licensing Requirements for Managerial Employees of a Sexually-Oriented Business.**

- (a) It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to operate any adult establishment on property located within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction without licenses issued pursuant to this section.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the owner and/or operator of an adult establishment on property located within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction to apply for a license for all employees who shall be involved in the managerial operation of the adult establishment. This shall include operators and managers, but does not include servers, entertainers, escorts, masseurs, and clerks. The application shall include
  1. The name and address of each operator and manager;
  2. Any aliases or other names by which each operator and manager has been known;
  3. A copy of a valid form of government-issued photo identification, which may include a driver's license, United States passport, United States military identification card, state identification card, or any other photo identification considered reliable by the Administrator;
  4. The initial date of employment of each operator and manager; and
  5. A completed background check authorization form.
- (c) Application for a license for an operator and/or manager shall be made within fifteen (15) days from the first date of his or her employment.

- (d) A nonrefundable fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) per operator and/or manager shall accompany the application.
- (e) Upon submission of the license application, a criminal background check shall be performed upon the operator(s) and/or manager(s). This background check shall be conducted in order to determine whether each individual has been convicted of any sexually-related crimes.
- (f) The review period for the license application, including criminal background check and written notification of the decision, shall not exceed a period of twenty-one (21) business days.
- (g) If the above application procedure is followed and an operator or manager satisfactorily passes the criminal background check, an adult establishment managerial employee license shall be issued. This license is valid for one (1) year and is personal to the managerial employee. Said license shall not be sold or transferred and expires when the managerial employee leaves the employ of the applicant.
- (h) A managerial employee license may be renewed for one (1) year upon its expiration with the payment of a renewal fee of one hundred (\$100) dollars to the Alamance County Planning Department.
- (i) If the background check reveals that an individual has been convicted of a sexually-oriented or drug related felony within the past fifteen (15) years or a sexually-oriented or drug related misdemeanor within the past ten (10) years, the managerial employee license shall be denied. Failure to follow the application procedure outlined above shall also result in a denial of the application.
- (j) A denial of the application shall be issued in writing by the Administrator and sent to the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested. This denial shall contain the reason(s) for refusing to issue the license and shall advise the applicant of the availability of the appeal procedure outlined in Section 14, below.

**Section 11. Licensing Requirements for Entertainers at a Sexually-Oriented Business.**

- (a) It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to operate any adult establishment on property located within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction without licenses issued pursuant to this section.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the owner and/or operator of an adult establishment on property located within Alamance County's ordinance-making jurisdiction to apply for a license for all employees who shall be involved in entertainment activities at the adult establishment. This shall not include servers, escorts, masseurs, and clerks. The application shall include

1. The name and address of each entertainer;
  2. Any aliases or other names by which the entertainer has been known, including stage names used in entertaining;
  3. A copy of a valid form of government-issued photo identification, which may include a driver's license, passport, military identification card, state identification card, or any other form of photo identification considered reliable by the Administrator;
  4. The initial date of employment of each entertainer; and
  5. A completed background check authorization form.
- (c) Application for a license for an entertainer shall be made within fifteen (15) days from the first date of his or her employment.
- (d) A nonrefundable fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per entertainer shall accompany the application.
- (e) Upon submission of the license application, a criminal background check shall be performed upon the entertainer. This background check shall be conducted in order to determine whether the individual has been convicted of any sexually-related crimes.
- (f) The review period for the license application, including criminal background check and written notification of the decision, shall not exceed a period of twenty-one (21) business days.
- (g) If the above application procedure is followed and an operator or manager satisfactorily passes the criminal background check, an adult establishment entertainer license shall be issued. This license is valid for one (1) year and is personal to the entertainer. Said license shall not be sold or transferred and expires when the entertainer leaves the employ of the applicant.
- (h) An entertainer license may be renewed for one (1) year upon its expiration with the payment of a renewal fee of twenty-five (\$25) dollars to the Alamance County Planning Department.
- (i) If the background check reveals that an individual has been convicted of a sexually-oriented or drug related felony within the past fifteen (15) years or a sexually-oriented or drug related misdemeanor within the past ten (10) years, the entertainer license shall be denied. Failure to follow the application procedure outlined above shall also result in a denial of the application.
- (j) A denial of the application shall be issued in writing by the Administrator and sent to

the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested. This denial shall contain the reason(s) for refusing to issue the license and shall advise the applicant of the availability of the appeal procedure outlined in Section 14, below.

#### **Section 12. Posting of Licenses.**

- (a) A validly-issued license for an adult establishment must be posted in a conspicuous location and manner on the premises of the business at all times.
- (b) Validly-issued licenses for all managerial employees of an adult establishment must be posted in a conspicuous location and manner on the premises of the business at all times.
- (c) Validly-issued license for all entertainer employees must be kept in a location on the premises of the adult establishment so that they are readily available for inspection by the authorities responsible for enforcement of this Ordinance.

#### **Section 13 Revocation of License.**

- (a) A license may be revoked by the Administrator if it is established that the license application contained false information or if the license holder is convicted of a sexually-oriented crime.
- (b) Written notice of revocation must be sent to the license holder and license applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested, and should contain the reasons for the revocation of the license and advise the license holder and license applicant of the availability of the appeal process outlined in Section 14, below.

#### **Section 14. Appeal of Denial or Revocation of License.**

- (a) An appeal of a denial or revocation of an adult establishment business, managerial employee, or entertainer license shall be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance and the Planning Director. The appeal must be filed within a thirty (30)-day period following the date of receipt of the license denial.
- (b) Such appeal shall be heard by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance within thirty (30) days of the filing of the appeal.

#### **Section 15. Transfer of License Prohibited.**

- (a) A license issued for any adult establishment may not be transferred with the property.

- (b) A license obtained pursuant to Section 9 shall be valid for one (1) year or the amount of time that the owner of record on the application owns the business, whichever is shorter. If ownership of the property is transferred, a new license must be obtained under Section 9. Application for this license must be made within thirty (30) days of the transfer of ownership.
- (c) While the new license application is pending, the Planning Director shall issue a temporary license for the business within three (3) business days of being provided with the new name of the business (if applicable) and the name and address of the new owner(s). This temporary license shall attach only to the business and shall be valid for thirty (30) days or until a new license is issued or denied under Section 9, whichever is shorter.
- (d) If a new license is not obtained under Section 9 prior to the expiration of the temporary license, the business shall be deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance and civil penalties may be imposed pursuant to Section 22, below.

**Section 16. Restrictions on Operation of Sexually-Oriented Businesses.**

- (a) An adult establishment may operate only between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m..
- (b) No one under the age of twenty-one (21) may be admitted to an adult establishment. This does not include massage parlors.
- (c) In the case of massage parlors, no masseur or masseuse may massage a person under twenty-one (21) years of age except under the direction of or by order of a licensed health professional.
- (d) No one under the age of twenty-one (21) may be employed by an adult establishment.
- (e) Performances in an adult establishment should occur only upon platforms that are raised at least four (4) feet from the floor.
- (f) Adult establishment entertainers must remain at least four (4) feet from patrons at all times during their performances.
- (g) In the course of an entertainment performance, adult establishment entertainers shall wear clothing that keeps their private parts completely and opaquely covered at all times.
- (h) In the course of all business except for an entertainment performance, adult establishment entertainers must wear clothing that completely and opaquely covers their specified anatomical areas at all times.

- (i) In the course of business, servers and other employees in an adult establishment must wear clothing that completely and opaquely covers their specified anatomical areas at all times.
- (j) No adult establishment shall permit specified sexual activities to occur as part of its featured entertainment or as a primary or secondary activity within or outside of the building.
- (k) Viewing booths or rooms within an adult establishment must remain open and visible to the operator at all times. In the case of an adult mini motion picture theatre, no more than one (1) person shall be permitted in each booth or room at once.
- (l) Any sexually-oriented merchandise should be contained within a sealed wrapper. Merchandise with a sexually-explicit cover should be contained within an opaque sealed wrapper.
- (m) No adult establishment shall allow any entertainment or business activities to occur outside of the building in an area that is visible to or accessible by the public.
- (n) No person employed as a masseur or masseuse shall, in the course of business, massage a customer's specified anatomical areas.
- (o) All individuals employed as a masseur or masseuse must comply with applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the Alamance County Health Department.
- (p) The operation of an adult establishment shall comply with the Alamance County Noise Ordinance at all times. Any violation of the noise ordinance shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in Section 1(b) therein.

**Section 17. Restriction on Appearance and Advertising of Sexually-Oriented Businesses.**

- (a) No sexually-oriented merchandise or entertainment shall be visible from the exterior of the building.
- (b) Each adult establishment is limited to one primary sign measuring twenty (20) square feet. Two (2) window signs measuring six (6) square feet may also be used.
- (k) Signs and other forms of on- and off-premise advertising or display may not contain sexually-oriented graphics or language that is designed to attract patrons with allusions to specified anatomical areas, nudity, and specified sexual activities.
- (l) An adult establishment may not use lighting on its property that will adversely impact the use and enjoyment of adjacent properties.

### **Section 18. Nonconformities.**

- (a) Any adult establishment that will be rendered a nonconformity with the passage of this Ordinance shall be required to come into compliance with the terms of this Ordinance within a specified period of time. This shall be
  - (1) One hundred and twenty (120) days in regard to the licensing requirements;
  - (2) Two hundred and seventy (270) days in regard to the operation requirements; and
  - (3) Three hundred and sixty-five (365) days in regard to the appearance requirements.
- (b) No adult establishment that has been rendered a nonconformity with the passage of this Ordinance may
  - (1) Expand or enlarge the facility or use in a manner that is not compliant with the terms of this Ordinance; or
  - (2) Replace a nonconforming portion of the building or on- or off-premise advertising; or
  - (3) Resume the operation of a nonconforming use if it is abandoned or discontinued for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days.
- (c) This section does not prevent permissible repairs to the property, as defined in Section 5.

### **Section 19. Exceptions.**

- (a) None of the above location, licensing, operation, or appearance requirements shall apply to legitimate theatre operations that present plays or films of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific merit.
- (b) Sections 16(g), 16(h), and 16(i) shall not apply to a private club, as defined in Section 5.

### **Section 20. Inspections.**

All adult establishments within the ordinance-making jurisdiction of Alamance County shall permit officials responsible for the enforcement of this Ordinance to enter upon and inspect the premises as necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 21. Availability of Moratoria.**

At any time, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance shall have the right to impose a moratorium on the licensing and operation of new sexually-oriented businesses. This moratorium shall be for a period no greater than three hundred and sixty-five (365) days and shall be used to conduct studies on the adverse secondary impacts of adult establishments within the Alamance County community.

**Section 22. Imposition of Civil Penalties.**

In addition to other remedies cited herein or otherwise protected by state law, this Ordinance may be enforced by the issuance of civil citations to the owner(s) and operator(s) of the adult establishment found to be in violation of this Ordinance.

(a) The following civil penalties are established for violations under this Ordinance:

1. Operation of an adult establishment without a license	\$500.00
2. Failure to obtain a license for a managerial employee	\$500.00
3. Failure to obtain a temporary license	\$500.00
4. Violation of an operation or appearance requirement	\$500.00
5. Providing incorrect or false information on a license application	\$500.00
6. Other violations	\$250.00

(b) For licensing requirements, civil penalties shall be assessed on the first day after the expiration of the period for compliance.

(c) For operation and appearance requirements, civil penalties shall be assessed on the first day following the determination of violation.

(d) Each day's violation shall be considered a separate and distinct offense that is subject to a fine.

(e) The County may recover any civil penalty associated with this Ordinance within seventy-two (72) hours after issuing a citation for a violation. Failure to pay a civil penalty may subject the owner(s) to civil action to recover debt if the penalty is not paid in the prescribed time.

### **Section 23. Appeal of a Citation and Civil Penalty.**

- (a) The issuance of a citation for a violation and the assessment of a civil penalty may be appealed to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance. This appeal must be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners within thirty (30) days of the citation.
- (b) Such appeal shall be heard by the Board of Commissioners within thirty (30) days of the filing of the appeal and the assessment of civil penalties shall be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. The stay on the running of the civil penalty shall begin on the day on which an appeal is filed with the Board of Commissioners.

### **Section 24. Equitable Remedies.**

- (a) This Ordinance may be enforced by an equitable remedy issued by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-123. This equitable remedy may be a mandatory or prohibitory injunction and Order of Abatement commanding the owner(s) to correct the violation of this Ordinance.
- (b) Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-123, if the court issues an Order of Abatement and the owner(s) fails or refuses to comply with the terms of the Order within the time allowed by the court, the owner(s) may be cited for contempt and the County may execute the Order of Abatement. If the County executes the Order, it will have a lien on the property found to be in violation for the costs of executing the Order. The owner(s) may secure cancellation of an Order of Abatement by paying all costs associated with the proceedings and by posting a bond for compliance with the Order. Cancellation of an Order of Abatement will not suspend or cancel an injunction issued in conjunction with the Order of Abatement.

### **Section 25. Conflict with Other Laws.**

It is not intended that this Ordinance repeal, abrogate, annul, impair, or interfere with any existing provisions of any other ordinances or laws. However, if the requirements of any other lawfully adopted rules, regulations, or ordinances of the County of Alamance conflict with this Ordinance, the more restrictive or that imposing the higher standards will govern.

### **Section 26. Severability.**

If any section of a specific provision or standard of this Ordinance is found by a court to be invalid, the decision of the court shall not affect the validity of any other section, provision, or standard of this Ordinance.

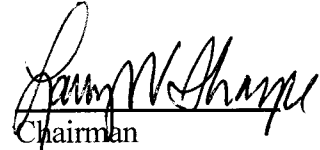
**Section 27. Amendment.**

This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamance.

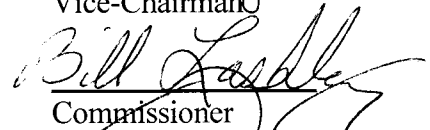
**Section 28. Effective Date.**

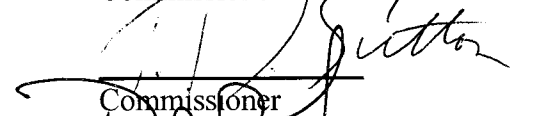
**This Ordinance shall be effective on and after November 21, 2005.**

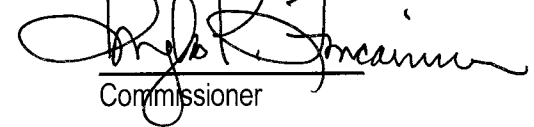
This is the 21 day of November, 2005.

  
Chairman

  
Vice-Chairman

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner