

ORDINANCE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: December 4, 2025

CALENDAR NO. 35,323

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBER GIARRUSSO

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 34-1 and 34-3 of the Code of the City of New Orleans to require that the number of float riders be included in the carnival parade permit fee; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

1 **SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY**

2 **ORDAINS,** That sections 34-1 and 34-3 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana are

3 amended to read as follows:

4 **“Chapter 34 – CARNIVAL, MARDI GRAS**

5 **ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL**

6 **Sec. 34-1. – Definitions.**

7 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings
8 ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

9 *Carnival organization* means a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the state
10 for the sole purpose of creating, staging and presenting carnival parades, truck parades or marching
11 club parades.

12 *Carnival parade* means a parade staged during the carnival parade season conducted by a
13 nonprofit carnival organization consisting of, *inter alia*, floats and elements. A *carnival parade*
14 also means a truck parade.

15 *Carnival parade season* means that period beginning with the second Friday before Mardi
16 Gras Day and continuing through Mardi Gras Day, both inclusive.

17 *Element* means any marching band, military band, dance club, walking club, riding club, or
18 dance troupe in a carnival parade, composed of more than 15 participants, not including
19 chaperones, helpers, support vehicles, or public safety vehicles.

20 *Fire watch* means privately paid uniformed New Orleans Fire Department personnel subject
21 to the fire official’s orders at all times when so employed. The term “fire watch personnel” shall
22 be synonymous with “fire watch”, “standby personnel”, “standby firefighter” or similar term.

23 *Flambeaux* means supplemental parade lighting consisting of burners mounted to a pole with
24 an open flame which burns Class II combustible liquid fuel or propane or butane liquid compressed
25 gas.

26 *Flambeaux contractor* means an individual or business entity that owns flambeaux and is
27 retained by carnival organizations to provide the actual flambeaux, the stick men, flambeaux
28 carriers, fuel and control over all flambeaux operations.

29 *Flambeaux safety guidelines* means section 34-24(9).

30 *Float* means vehicles with platforms used to carry maskers. Floats shall be not less than 23
31 feet long, nor less than nine feet wide, and not more than 17 feet ten inches high, exclusive of
32 animation which shall not exceed 17 feet ten inches in its lowest position and 20 feet in its highest
33 position, measured from the street level.

34 *Marching band* means a group of musicians that marches together while playing instruments
35 and is officially sanctioned by a middle, junior, or high school, a college or university, or a youth-
36 focused non-profit organization that is composed of no fewer than 30 participants. A *marching*

37 *band* also means an officially sanctioned military marching band regardless of the number of
38 participants.

39 *Marching club parade* means a parade staged during carnival parade season conducted by a
40 nonprofit carnival organization which consists entirely of marching participants and specifically
41 does not contain floats or minifloats.

42 *Minifloat* means a vehicle less than 23 feet long which may or may not have a platform used
43 to carry maskers.

44 *Night parade* means any parade beginning at 5:15 p.m. or later.

45 *Parade property truck* means a truck provided by the float builder containing tools and other
46 equipment needed for float maintenance.

47 *Pendency of a parade* means the immediate four hours before a parade leaves its starting
48 point.

49 *Pull unit* means a single tractor, mule, or truck tractor pulling a float, tandem float, or truck
50 trailer during a carnival parade.

51 *Stick man* means an individual hired by the flambeaux contractor to supervise no more than
52 15 flambeaux carriers.

53 *Pre-parade party* means an activity consisting of music employing sound amplification
54 equipment performed by a disc jockey or live performer(s), conducted by a carnival organization,
55 which begins and ends prior to the arrival of the first vehicle of a carnival parade within 120 yards
56 of the activity.

57 *Tandem float* means two or more floats, not more than 215 feet in length, attached to one
58 another and pulled by a single tractor or other vehicle.

59 *Truck parade* means a carnival parade which consists entirely of self-decorated truck trailers
60 drawn by truck tractors.

61 * * *

62 **ARTICLE II. – PARADE PERMITS**

63 * * *

64 **Sec. 34-3. – Application requirements; fees.**

65 Before any parade permit is issued under this chapter, each carnival organization shall submit
66 the following documents and fees to the designated offices prior to 5:00 p.m. of each date specified:

67 (a) On or before August 15, a parade permit application must be submitted to the department
68 of finance, with copies to the department of police. The application must:

- 69 1. Designate whether the carnival organization will conduct a pre-parade party and the
70 location of any proposed pre-parade party.
- 71 2. Designate the disbanding area of the carnival parade.
- 72 3. Designate the official reviewing stands and one other stop along the parade route to
73 make a ceremonial toast, including the exact location of the stop and a list of no
74 more than three floats, identified by float number and float name which will
75 participate in the stop. Additional stops may be authorized only upon a showing of
76 good cause.
- 77 4. Include the anticipated number of riders or maskers riding on each float or truck
78 trailer, identified by float/trailer number and float/trailer name or theme.

79 5. Include the name, address and phone number of one current officer of the carnival
80 organization who will be the main point of contact between the city and that carnival
81 organization.

82 6. Include a copy of the articles of incorporation of the carnival organization, filed
83 with the Louisiana Secretary of State, if the carnival organization was not issued a
84 parade permit in the previous carnival season. A copy of any amendment to the
85 articles of incorporation must be included if the applicant has not included a copy
86 in a prior application for a carnival parade permit.

87 7. Include an affidavit of an authorized agent of the carnival organization, attesting
88 that the organization has no written or unwritten provision in its charter, bylaws,
89 rules, regulations or policies which call for the refusal, withholding or denying of
90 membership, or any of the services, accommodations, advantages, facilities or
91 privilege offered by the respondent to members or others, because of race, color,
92 creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, or which
93 unreasonably calls for such discrimination on the basis of age, sex, physical
94 condition or disability, and that the applicant and its members will, except as
95 otherwise authorized by chapter 86, section 86-39 of the Code of the City of New
96 Orleans, treat all proposals for membership in a nondiscriminatory manner in
97 accordance with the procedures contained in the carnival organization's bylaws and
98 regulations. The filing of such an affidavit shall be a prerequisite to the granting of
99 the permit.

100 (b) On or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit to the department of
101 finance, with copies to the department of police, a nonrefundable permit fee, in an

102 amount based on the number of pull units and riders, and equal to the sum of the
103 following:

104 1. The amount equal to \$20.00 per rider or masker, ages 12 and older, riding on each
105 float, minifloat, or truck trailer, and identified by float/trailer number and
106 float/trailer name, title or theme; plus

107 2. The following amount determined according to the number of pull units:

108 *14 to 27 pull units: \$750.00;*

109 *28 to 36 pull units: \$1,000.00; or*

110 *37 to 45 pull units: \$1,500.00.*

111 (c) On or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit to the department of the
112 police the following:

113 1. A certification from the builder or builders of the structural elements of the floats
114 that each float is structurally sound and meets the physical and safety requirements
115 of this chapter. The certification shall also state the maximum weight and rider
116 capacity of the float.

117 2. Evidence that the builder and the carnival organization each have a currently
118 effective commercial general liability insurance policy for the date of the parade
119 and the date of the prepared party, if applicable, with minimum insurance coverage
120 as follows:

Commercial General Liability Policy	Carnival Organization	Float Owner/Builder
Each occurrence	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Aggregate	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Passenger hazard endorsement	Endorsement	

Riders named as additional insured	Endorsement	
Hired autos and nonowned autos	\$1,000,000.00	
Personal and advertising limit		\$500,000.00
Products complete operational aggregate		\$1,000,000.00
Fire damage limit		\$300,000.00

(d) Not less than 30 days prior to the beginning of the carnival parade season, but on or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit the following to the department of finance, with copies to the department of police, and other agencies as indicated below:

1. A letter signed by the owner of any floats to be used in the carnival organization's parade which states that no float in the parade will be used more than twice in that carnival parade season, unless that float's exterior will be redecorated to the extent that at least 75 percent of the float's exterior appears different than when it was used previously.
2. A parade lineup form, supplied by the department of police, completed to designate the position of each float, minifloat, vehicle, marching band, element, and all other components of the parade. This completed form shall be also submitted to the agency designated by the city to maintain its animal control program under chapter 18, and to the city council president, the latter with copies of all contracts between

144 the carnival organization and the marching bands indicated in its completed parade
145 lineup form.

146 3. An affidavit attesting that all obligations have been satisfied.”

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:
DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

ENGROSSED VERSION:

Sec. 34-1. – Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Carnival organization means a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the state for the sole purpose of creating, staging and presenting carnival parades, truck parades or marching club parades.

Carnival parade means a parade staged during the carnival parade season conducted by a nonprofit carnival organization consisting of, inter alia, floats, ~~minifloats~~, and ~~marching organizations~~ elements. **A carnival parade also means a truck parade.**

Carnival parade season means that period beginning with the second Friday before Mardi Gras Day and continuing through Mardi Gras Day, both inclusive.

~~*Elements in a parade*~~ shall mean any marching band, military band, dance club, walking club, riding club, or dance troupe in a carnival float parade, composed of more than ~~larger than a group~~ of 15 participants, not including chaperones, helpers, support vehicles, ~~and~~ or public safety vehicles.

Fire watch means privately paid uniformed New Orleans Fire Department personnel subject to the fire official's orders at all times when so employed. The term “fire watch personnel” shall be synonymous with “fire watch”, “standby personnel”, “standby firefighter” or similar term.

Flambeaux means supplemental parade lighting consisting of burners mounted to a pole with an open flame which burns Class II combustible liquid fuel or propane or butane liquid compressed gas.

Flambeaux contractor means an individual or business entity that owns flambeaux and is retained by carnival organizations to provide the actual flambeaux, the stick men, flambeaux carriers, fuel and control over all flambeaux operations.

Flambeaux safety guidelines means section 34-24(9).

Float means vehicles with platforms used to carry maskers. Floats shall be not less than 23 feet long, nor less than nine feet wide, and not more than 17 feet ten inches high, exclusive of animation which shall not exceed 17 feet ten inches in its lowest position and 20 feet in its highest position, measured from the street level.

Marching band means a group of musicians that marches together while playing instruments and is officially sanctioned by a middle, junior, or high school, a college or university, or a youth-focused non-profit organization that is composed of no fewer than 30 participants. A *marching band* also means an officially sanctioned military marching band regardless of the number of participants.

Marching club parade means a parade staged during carnival parade season conducted by a nonprofit carnival organization which consists entirely of marching participants and specifically does not contain floats or minifloats.

Minifloat means a vehicle less than 23 feet long which may or may not have a platform used to carry maskers.

Night parade means any parade beginning at 5:15 p.m. or later.

Parade property truck means a truck provided by the float builder containing tools and other equipment needed for float maintenance.

Pendency of a parade means the immediate four hours before a parade leaves its starting point.

Pull unit means a single tractor, ~~or~~ mule, or truck tractor pulling a float, ~~or~~ tandem float, or truck trailer during a carnival parade.

Stick man means an individual hired by the flambeaux contractor to supervise no more than 15 flambeaux carriers.

Pre-parade party means an activity consisting of music employing sound amplification equipment performed by a disc jockey or live performer(s), conducted by a carnival organization, which begins and ends prior to the arrival of the first vehicle of a carnival parade within 120 yards of the activity.

Tandem float means two or more floats, not more than 215 feet in length, attached to one another and pulled by a single tractor or other vehicle.

Truck parade means a carnival parade which consists entirely of self-propelled decorated trucks trailers drawn by truck tractors.

Sec. 34-3. – Application requirements; fees.

Before any parade permit is issued under this chapter, each carnival organization shall submit the following documents and fees to the designated offices prior to 5:00 p.m. of each date specified:

- (a) On or before August 15, a parade permit application must be submitted to the department of finance, with copies to the department of police. The application must:
 1. Designate whether the carnival organization will conduct a pre-parade party and the location of any proposed pre-parade party.
 2. Designate the disbanding area of the carnival parade.
 3. Designate the official reviewing stands and one other stop along the parade route to make a ceremonial toast, including the exact location of the stop and a list of no more than three floats, identified by float number and float name which will participate in the stop. Additional stops may be authorized only upon a showing of good cause.
 - 4. Include the anticipated number of riders or maskers riding on each float or truck trailer, identified by float/trailer number and float/trailer name or theme.**
 - ~~4.5.~~ Include the name, address and phone number of one current officer of the carnival organization who will be the main point of contact between the city and that carnival organization.

~~5-6.~~ Include a copy of the articles of incorporation of the carnival organization, filed with the Louisiana Secretary of State, if the carnival organization was not issued a parade permit in the previous carnival season. A copy of any amendment to the articles of incorporation must be included if the applicant has not included a copy in a prior application for a carnival parade permit.

~~6-7.~~ Include an affidavit of an authorized agent of the carnival organization, attesting that the organization has no written or unwritten provision in its charter, bylaws, rules, regulations or policies which call for the refusal, withholding or denying of membership, or any of the services, accommodations, advantages, facilities or privilege offered by the respondent to members or others, because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, or which unreasonably calls for such discrimination on the basis of age, sex, physical condition or disability, and that the applicant and its members will, except as otherwise authorized by chapter 86, section 86-39 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, treat all proposals for membership in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with the procedures contained in the carnival organization's bylaws and regulations. The filing of such an affidavit shall be a prerequisite to the granting of the permit.

(b) On or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit to the department of finance, with copies to the department of police, a nonrefundable permit fee, **in an amount based on** ~~according to~~ the number of pull units **and riders, and equal to the sum of the following** ~~used in the parade as follows:~~

1. The amount equal to \$20.00 per rider or masker, ages 12 and older, riding on each float, minifloat, or truck trailer, and identified by float/trailer number and float/trailer name, title or theme; plus

2. The following amount determined according to the number of pull units:

14 to 27 pull units: \$750.00;

28 to 36 pull units: \$1,000.00; or

37 to 45 pull units: \$1,500.00.

(c) On or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit to the department of the police the following:

1. A certification from the builder or builders of the structural elements of the floats that each float is structurally sound and meets the physical and safety requirements of this chapter. The certification shall also state the maximum weight and rider capacity of the float.
2. Evidence that the builder and the carnival organization each have a currently effective commercial general liability insurance policy for the date of the parade and the date of the prepared party, if applicable, with minimum insurance coverage as follows:

Commercial General Liability Policy	Carnival Organization	Float Owner/Builder
Each occurrence	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Aggregate	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Passenger hazard endorsement	Endorsement	
Riders named as additional insured	Endorsement	
Hired autos and nonowned autos	\$1,000,000.00	
Personal and advertising limit		\$500,000.00
Products complete operational aggregate		\$1,000,000.00
Fire damage limit		\$300,000.00

(d) Not less than 30 days prior to the beginning of the carnival parade season, but on or before January 15, the carnival organization shall submit the following to the department of finance, with copies to the department of police, and other agencies as indicated below:

1. A letter signed by the owner of any floats to be used in the carnival organization's parade which states that no float in the parade will be used more than twice in that carnival parade season, unless that float's exterior will be redecorated to the extent that at least 75 percent of the float's exterior appears different than when it was used previously.
2. A parade lineup form, supplied by the department of police, completed to designate the position of each float, minifloat, vehicle, marching band, element, and all other components of the parade. This completed form shall be also submitted to the agency designated by the city to maintain its animal control program under chapter 18, and to the city council president, the latter with copies of all contracts between the carnival organization and the marching bands indicated in its completed parade lineup form.
3. An affidavit attesting that all obligations have been satisfied.