

AMENDMENT TO CAL. NO. 35,491

CITY HALL: July 23, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL

SECONDED BY:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

An amendment to Cal. No. 35,491 to allow the throwing of branded personal items; to clarify language; and otherwise to provide in respect thereto.

AMENDMENT:

1. In Section 1, on page 6, lines 149-150, delete the phrase “first float of the carnival parade is scheduled to leave its starting point” and insert the phrase “designated parade start time” in lieu thereof.
2. In Section 1, on page 9, delete the text on lines 243-245, and insert the following in lieu thereof:
 - (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, a carnival organization may approve the throwing of the following items that contain the manufacturer’s logo or trademark: candy, snacks, food, and small personal items. Small personal items include soap and similar bath products, toothbrushes, candles, glitter, plant seeds, drink mixes and other similar items. Small personal items cannot be larger than 12 inches or exceed eight ounces in weight.
3. In Section 1, on page 9, line 252, after the word “participant” insert the phrase “riding on a float or in a vehicle”.

THE FOREGOING AMENDMENT WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

AND THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

ENGROSSED VERSION:

The following engrossed version shows how the proposed amendment would modify Cal. No. 35,491, as originally introduced. Additions are underlined. Deletions are shown as ~~striketroughs~~.

Chapter 34 – CARNIVAL, MARDI GRAS

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Sec. 34-3. – Application requirements.

Before any parade permit is issued under this chapter, each carnival organization shall submit the following documents 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 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. 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. 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.

7. Provide the names and contact information for the members of the carnival organization responsible for organizing or otherwise coordinating the marching bands participating in its parade.

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- (d) On or before January 15 of every year, the carnival organization shall submit to both the department of finance and the department of police (i) a signed affidavit attesting that all obligations of the carnival organization required by this code are satisfied; and (ii) 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 city council president, with copies of all contracts between the carnival organization and the marching bands indicated in its completed parade lineup form.

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ARTICLE III. – GENERAL REGULATIONS

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Sec. 34-14. – Float parades.

All float parades conducted during carnival parade season shall be subject to the following additional requirements:

- (1) Each parade shall consist of no less than 14 and no more than 45 pull units. Each pull unit shall bear a unique, sequential arabic number corresponding to the order in which the pull unit appears on the parade route, beginning with the number "1".
- (2) A tandem float shall be considered a single float for the purposes of this section.
- (3) The number of automobiles or minifloats or any combination thereof shall not exceed 14 or a number equal to 75 percent of the number of floats in a parade, whichever is

the greater. Occupancy per automobile shall be limited to the driver, three maskers, and one escort riding therein.

- (4) The number of marching bands participating in a parade is based on the total number of pull units in the parade, as follows:

14 to 27 pull units	A minimum of seven marching bands
28 to 36 pull units	A minimum of ten marching bands
37 to 45 pull units	A minimum of 14 marching bands

Parades which are rescheduled because of inclement weather shall not be required to comply with the minimum number of marching bands.

Any element that contains at least one person under the age of 18 shall provide a minimum of one adult chaperone per every 15 participants, regardless of age. Such adult chaperones shall also be required to have affixed to their clothes, within clear, unobstructed and plain view, while the parade is in progress, placards, badges, or similar identification associating them with the band or parade that individual is chaperoning.

- (5) Only members of the military band and their supervisors may participate in military bands marching or riding in carnival parades. All persons participating in military bands shall be in uniform.
- (6) Each Mardi Gras float that uses 120-volt fixed electrical wiring must register annually with the electrical division of the department of safety and permits and have an official annual electrical inspection sticker. Any float that does not have electrical wiring is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
- (7) The annual fee for an inspection sticker is \$10.00 per float. For purposes of this section only, tandem floats are considered one float.
- (8) The annual registration fee is \$40.00 per carnival organization.
- (9) Inspection stickers will be issued after a licensed electrician has completed an official inspection form which states that the relevant floats have been examined by the electrician who certifies that the electrical systems conform to the requirements of this section.
- (10) The inspection sticker must be installed on the tongue of the float and must be visible for inspection.

- (11) The fire department will inspect each float for the presence of the electrical inspection sticker during the formation area inspection immediately prior to the start of the parade. Any float that does not have a valid sticker will be withdrawn from the parade.
- (12) Every float and minifloat must conform to the following electrical requirements:
- (a) All wiring must be over-current protected with circuit breakers meeting the minimum requirements of NFPA 70, Article 240: National Electrical Code. Example: 15-amp circuit breakers for 14-gauge wiring or 20-amp circuit breakers for 12-gauge wiring.
 - (b) The electrical distribution panel must be located in an accessible location.
 - (c) All electrical connections must utilize wire nuts or insulated butt splices.
 - (d) All electrical connections must be housed within covered junction boxes, except for butt splices.
 - (e) All staples used to secure wiring must have nonmetallic insulation.
 - (f) All electrical work must be inspected by and signed off by an Orleans Parish class A licensed electrician.
 - (g) A manual shutoff device for the generator must be within ten feet of the tractor driver or conspicuously marked for easy identification.
 - (h) All pin socket light fixtures must be installed using the correct polarity.
 - (i) Any float which uses electrical energy for anything other than lighting, i.e. disc jockey, musical equipment, animation etc., shall provide a minimum of one 20-amp circuit which may be placed anywhere on the float. Each circuit may have no more than two weatherproof duplex receptacles or one weatherproof quad receptacle. Extension cords shall not be used. The float shall also have a current inspection sticker for this year's parade on the tongue of the float.
- (13) Each float shall be pulled by either a tractor or traditional equine team.
- (14) Each parade shall consist of no more than 12 elements before the first float and no more than one element between each float.
- (15) No carnival parade may have more than three elements that are primarily composed of motor vehicles including, for example, dune buggies, go-karts, mini-cars, Jeep-type vehicles, or motorcycles. Operators of the motorized vehicles that are part of a parade element primarily composed of such vehicles shall ride two abreast for the duration of the carnival parade.

(16) Any support vehicles for a parade element shall immediately follow or precede its element. The police department may remove a support vehicle from the parade for continued violation of this paragraph following an initial warning.

(17) Marching bands shall not impede the progress of a parade and may not stop a moving parade to perform. The police department may remove from a parade any marching band that continues to violate this provision following two or more warnings.

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Sec. 34-17. – Riders.

- (a) No float rider may possess glass bottles or glass objects, with the exception of necklaces incorporating glass beads, while participating in a carnival parade. The police department may remove from the float any rider who violates the provisions of this section.
- (b) No person shall ride on the exterior of an automobile during a parade, except that one person may ride on the back of a convertible automobile.

Sec. 34-18. – Smoking prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to smoke while participating in a carnival parade or truck parade. A "no smoking" sign shall be securely attached and plainly visible to all occupants of a float, minifloat or tandem float. For the purposes of this section, smoking includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes, vapes, hookah, electronic smoking devices as defined in Sec. 66-36, or any other lighted device. The police department may remove from the parade any person who violates the provisions of this section.

Sec. 34-19. – Obstructing parades.

- (a) No person in control or charge of any motorized vehicle, including, but not limited to, automobiles, golf carts, and all-terrain vehicles, may park, loiter, or stop on any street, roadway, or boulevard, including intersections, neutral grounds, and public rights of way, as follows:
 - (1) Within the designated parade formation area beginning four hours before the ~~first float of the carnival parade is scheduled to leave its starting point~~ **designated parade start time** until two hours after the last float leaves the formation area;
 - (2) Along the designated parade route beginning two hours before until two hours after the start time for the carnival parade; and

- (3) On any designated parade route for Mardi Gras Day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (b) The police department may tow any vehicle in violation of this section. The provisions of this section do not apply to public safety vehicles, authorized parade vehicles, buses used for transportation of any parade element, any horse ridden by a law enforcement agency or that is part of the parade pursuant to the parade permit.

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ARTICLE IV. – FLOATS

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Sec. 34-24. – Safety precautions

In all parades there shall be:

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(4) *Safety positioning devices.*

- a. All float riders and truck parade riders shall be equipped with a safety positioning device which consists of the following components:
 - i. Nylon safety belt or harness with a minimum width of one and three-quarter's inches seatbelt grade flat webbing material.
 - ii. Nylon tether rope with a minimum diameter of one-quarter-inch and of enough length to restrict a rider's fall over the side of a float to no more than two feet.
 - iii. Anchor point eye bolts, steel welded O rings, steel safety hook with Grommets, or any other similar devices shall be metal with a corrosion-resistant finish.
 - iv. Minimum diameter of anchor point eye bolts will be three-eighths of an inch and will be threaded to use nuts and washers.
 - v. Minimum diameter of steel welded O rings will be 6 mm and two inches round.
 - vi. Minimum diameter of the steel safety hook with grommets will be 10 mm or three-eighths inches.
 - vii. The anchor point eye bolt shall be securely fastened to the body or framework of the float.
- b. Any safety positioning device utilized by riders must be submitted to the NOFD for approval a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the parade. In addition to any

other penalties specified in this chapter, violations of this section shall subject the offending float rider to removal from the float.

- c. Riders must keep both feet on the float and avoid standing on bags, throws, or other objects not permanently attached to the float.

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ARTICLE V. – THROWS AND THROWING

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Sec. 34-28. – Prohibited throws.

- (a) No carnival parade may include nor shall any carnival parade participant, while participating in a parade on the parade route, in a parade staging area or in a parade disbanding area, possess or have in the participant's custody or control any of the following:
 - (1) Any life-threatening objects or safety-threatening objects, including, but not limited to "bomb bags";
 - (2) Any noxious substance or any liquid intended to be poured, tossed, handed out or otherwise distributed;
 - (3) Any throw containing sharp points, including but not limited to plastic spears or plastic, paper or silk flowers with wire stems, except as otherwise provided in this section;
 - (4) Any insects, marine life, rodents, fowl or other animals, dead or alive;
 - (5) Any "silly string" or other such item which, when used, emits a string-like or streamer-like substance that is shot or expelled from a pressurized container;
 - (6) Confetti or confetti cannons, whether mechanical or handheld; or
 - (7) Glass, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (b) Except as provided in this subsection, no carnival parade participant may throw toilet paper, bathroom tissue, paper streamers or any other similar paper product customarily shipped and stored in a rolled condition and capable of being unrolled to a length of more than 36 inches. A member of the Krewe of Tucks may, during the Tucks parade, dispense the krewe's traditional toilet paper throw, provided that the paper is fully biodegradable, marine grade, and made of most readily degradable form of paper commercially available. Paper cannons or any other mechanical device intended to launch or disburse paper products are strictly prohibited.

- (c) No carnival parade participant shall knowingly throw any doubloon, trinket or other throw which would be redeemable for or entitle the bearer to a prize or a discount on the price of any food, beverage, merchandise, service or admission to any event or which displays, conveys or communicates any commercial, political or religious message.
- (d) No carnival parade participant, while participating in a parade on the parade route, shall hand out, throw, toss, or in any way discard boxes, corrugated boxes, paper steamers or other paper products exceeding 36 inches in length regardless of whether the paper biodegrades when wet, or empty single-use plastic bags. Any package containing bulk throws, including but not limited to doubloons, beads, cups, trinkets, or toys shall be handed to parade attendees and shall not be thrown or tossed. Bulk throws shall be removed from any plastic packaging before being thrown or tossed.
- (e) No carnival parade participant, while participating in a parade on the parade route, in a parade staging area, or in a parade disbanding area, shall hand out, throw, or distribute in any way, any condom or prophylactic or any sexually-oriented device. Sexually-oriented device shall include but not be limited to any paraphernalia that is designed in whole or part for specified sexual activities as defined in the comprehensive zoning ordinance.
- (f) No member of a carnival organization, rider on a float in its parade, or participant in any element of its parade may throw, toss, hand out, or otherwise distribute or knowingly possess any throw that was not approved by the carnival organization in advance of the parade.
 - (1) A carnival organization shall not approve any throw that exceeds three and one-half pounds in total weight.
 - (2) Approved beads must be either plain and unadorned or display the carnival organization's logo, name, or other identifying feature specific to the organization.
 - ~~(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, a carnival organization may approve the throwing of candy or other commercially packaged snacks that contain the manufacturer's logo or trademark.~~
 - (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, a carnival organization may approve the throwing of the following items that contain the manufacturer's logo or trademark: candy, snacks, food, and small personal items. Small personal items include soap and similar bath products.**

toothbrushes, candles, glitter, plant seeds, drink mixes and other similar items.
Small personal items cannot be larger than 12 inches or exceed eight ounces in weight.

- (g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a carnival organization may approve, and a rider may throw, glass bead necklaces that do not exceed 220 grams in weight.
- (h) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a carnival organization may approve the individual distribution of silk flowers by any participant of a parade element that traditionally hands-out individual silk flowers to parade spectators. No carnival participant **riding on a float or in a vehicle** may throw silk flowers.
- (i) A participant in a carnival parade may not throw or otherwise distribute alcoholic beverages, including, but not limited to beer, wine, malt liquor, mixed alcoholic drinks and Jello shots, to any parade spectator.

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ARTICLE VI. – STANDS AND STRUCTURES

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Sec. 34-33. – Ladders, tents, grills, personal items, and portable toilets.

- (a) *Prohibited items.* Upholstered furniture, including, for example, chaise lounges, and sofas or couches; scaffolding; platforms; open flames; and gas generators shall not be placed in any public space including, but not limited to, public rights-of-way, neutral grounds, sidewalks, and intersections during the carnival season.
- (b) *Ladders and chairs.* All ladders used by parade spectators shall be structurally sound and the top cap of the ladder shall not exceed six feet in height. Ladders, chairs, canopies, grills, and other personal effects shall be placed at least six feet back from the street curb. Additionally, the practice of fastening two or more ladders together shall be prohibited. Ladders must be free-standing and not connected, permanently or temporarily, to any other ladder or object, provided that a small seat box capable of accommodating small children may be affixed to the top of any ladder.
- (c) *Enclosures prohibited.* Any item used to enclose a public area, including, but not limited to, tents, canopies, shelters, screens, awnings, ropes, spray paint, or any other type of barricade, is prohibited. The use of any object that obstructs foot traffic or line of sight is prohibited.

- (d) *Removal of items.* All ladders, chairs, ice chests, and other personal items placed on the public right-of-way, including the neutral ground, four hours or more prior to the start of a parade, may be removed and discarded. Items left unattended on the public right-of-way, upon the conclusion of the final parade for that day may be removed and discarded. Items prohibited by this section are subject to removal from the parade route at any time during the carnival season.
- (e) *Portable toilets.* Except for the city, no person shall place a portable toilet during the carnival season on any public rights-of-way, neutral grounds, sidewalks, or intersections within a three-block radius of a parade route, unless authorized by the department of safety and permits. A fine of \$1000.00 for the first day and \$2000.00 each day thereafter shall be assessed against the individual, organization, or legal entity responsible for the placement of any portable toilet in violation of this section. A fine of \$1000.00 for the first day and \$2000.00 each day thereafter shall be assessed against the owner of any portable toilet found to be in violation of this section.

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ARTICLE VIII. – ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Sec. 34-48. – Enforcement.

- (a) The department of police, the fire department, and department of safety and permits shall issue citations for the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) The department of police, the fire department, and the department of safety and permits may remove any person, element, float, or vehicle of any sort from a carnival parade if the person, element, float or vehicle is in violation of any provision of this chapter.
- (c) The department of police, the fire department, the department of safety and permits, and the department of sanitation may remove any items, ladders, chairs, enclosures, or portable toilets prohibited pursuant to or placed in violation of the provisions of section 34-33.
- (d) Any person responsible for the violation of any provision of section 34-33 may be charged with a criminal offense under chapter 54.

Sec. 34-49. – Penalties.

- (a) Failure of any carnival organization to comply with any provisions of this chapter may subject the carnival organization to revocation of its parade permit, and/or may be punishable up to the maximum limit provided by law.

- (b) If any carnival organization, its member, or any individual riding on its float, willfully violates or permits a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, the carnival organization may be subject to a \$1000.00 fine for the first violation and \$2000.00 for each subsequent violation thereof and to other sanctions which may be imposed by the city council, including revocation of the carnival organization's permit for the following and subsequent years.
- (c) If any individual willfully violates a provision of this chapter, the individual shall be punished by a fine of \$1000.00 fine for the first violation and \$2000.00 for each subsequent violation thereof and may also be subject to imprisonment as allowable by law, or as otherwise provided in this chapter.”