

Zoning Compliance Certificate Required for New Business Licenses

Before applying for a business license with the Revenue Department, all new businesses with a location inside city limits should first obtain a Zoning Compliance Certificate from the Planning Department.

This step ensures your business location and use meet the City's zoning standards and helps prevent costly delays later in the process.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- **Protects Your Investment** – Confirms your business type is allowed in your chosen location before you sign a lease or spend money on improvements.
- **Ensures Compliance** – Verifies that the business use, parking, signage, and site improvements meet Fairhope's zoning regulations.
- **Prevents Delays** – Getting the certificate first avoids the risk of your business license being denied or delayed due to zoning conflicts.
- **Supports Fairness & Consistency** – Applies the same standards across all businesses, keeping a level playing field and protecting neighborhood character.

HOW TO APPLY:

- 1) Submit a **Zoning Compliance Certificate** application to the Planning & Zoning Department.
- 2) Planning staff will review your proposed business use and location for compliance and respond back.
- 3) Once approved, provide the signed certificate to the Revenue Department with a complete Business License Application.

TIP: Applying for your Zoning Compliance Certificate *before* applying for a business license saves you time and ensures you're set up for success from the start.

