

Memorandum

To: Planning and Zoning Commission
From: Martin Zimmermann, Planning Administrator
Date: January 17, 2013
Re: citizen request to amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance concerning tattoo studio uses

A few weeks ago, City staff received a citizen request (see attached) to change the Zoning Ordinance in order to allow a tattoo studio use on property located at 307 W. 26th Street. The property is currently zoned Downtown – South (DT-S) District which does not permit tattoo studios.

Bryan's Zoning Ordinance defines "tattoo/body piercing studio" uses as

the workshop of a tattoo artist, and/or a facility where the piercing of body parts, other than ears, is performed for purposes of allowing the insertion of jewelry. (Sec. 130-3)

The Zoning Ordinance allows tattoo/piercing studios by right in C-2 (Retail), C-3 (Commercial) and I (Industrial) zoning districts of Bryan.

In accordance with procedures established in August 2011 to consider citizen-requested amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance, staff is presenting this request to the Planning and Zoning Commission during the workshop meeting on January 17, 2013. Commissioners are asked to give staff direction regarding this request.

Commissioners can direct staff to

1. research the request, report findings for the Commission's evaluation and schedule this item for further discussion at a future workshop and/or regular meeting for consideration and/or formal action (recommendation to City Council); or
2. not schedule this request for consideration/formal action by the Commission

Should the Commission decide to not schedule this item for further consideration, the citizen proposing the change to the text of the Zoning Ordinance can also approach his/her Councilmember and request that the item be scheduled for City Council consideration. A second Councilmember would have to agree to get the item scheduled for consideration on a City Council agenda. The City Council could then direct the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider a text amendment.



ARSENAL TATTOO AND DESIGN

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December 14, 2012

Mr. Martin Zimmermann
Planning Administrator, City of Bryan
PO Box 1000
Bryan, TX 77805

Re: Requested Ordinance Change

Dear Mr. Zimmermann:

With an admiration for Downtown Bryan and an ardent desire to more readily participate in our local heritage, we ask that the planning and development division of the City of Bryan recommend a change to local ordinance to allow our operating a tattoo business at 307 W. 26th Street. We recently purchased the property in anticipation of relocating Arsenal Tattoo and Design to Downtown — the cultural hub of the Brazos Valley, where artists congregate with local professionals and make indelible impressions on folks visiting the area.

The Arsenal is the second oldest tattoo shop in Bryan-College Station. It was established in 1994 by Aggie graduate Pat Beck. He apprenticed Cliff and sold the business to him in 2007. Since that time, the Arsenal's customer base has grown to thousands; and because it is the only full-custom shop in our area, people schedule appointments weeks and months in advance. Though tattooing's history sometimes is relegated to society's underbelly, acceptance of the art is becoming more commonplace and we see an embrace of the art as industry in social media. Previously taboo and indulged in by outliers only, tattoos today are ubiquitous and sported by people from all walks of life (e.g., educators and our local university students, medical professionals, seminarians even).

We believe our clientele will add to the bustle of Downtown Bryan, and we also believe that by relocating our business, Cliff can more actively participate in the finer arts. Like so many tattooers of today, Cliff holds a college degree in the visual arts and is commissioned regularly to paint portraits and design company logos. The location is amenable to an aesthetic clientele and the open interior lends itself to our having an art gallery. Indeed, the old Texaco at 26th Street offers an ideal façade for the curious pedestrian, and rolling up the garage door for First Fridays can only improve the area's attractiveness.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter and sincerely wish to positively impact the social mores that surround the tattooing industry. For the first time in its history, Best of the Brazos Valley included tattoo services as a category this year — and the Arsenal won. We ask that you please consider admitting such a reputable offering into Downtown.

Respectfully,

Cliff & Stacy Collard