

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-081

*Amending 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina,
Chapter 11, License, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations,
Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, Sec. 11-50,
Telecommunications business license tax*

WHEREAS, South Carolina Code sections 58-9-2200 through 58-9-2270, effective June 30, 1999, provide for municipal business license taxes on "retail telecommunications services" as defined and limited therein; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina General Assembly, on June 3, 2004, ratified an act (Rat # 0406) amending S.C. Code sections 58-9-2200, 58-9-2220, and 58-9-2230, that will take effect upon approval by the Governor, and that, among other things, authorizes municipalities, for business license tax years beginning after 2003, to levy a maximum business license tax on the gross income derived from the sale of retail telecommunications services for the preceding calendar or fiscal year at the rate of one percent; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Business License Ordinance to conform to the State law as amended; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Columbia, this 22nd day of September, 2004, that the Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, Sec. 11-40, Telecommunications business license tax is amended as follows:

Sec. 11-50. Telecommunications business license tax.

Section 1.

a. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Business License Ordinance, the business license tax for "retail telecommunications services", as defined in S. C. Code section 58-9-2200, shall be at the maximum rate authorized by S. C. Code section 58-9-2220, as it now provides or as provided by its amendment. The business license tax year shall begin on January 1 of each year. The rate for the 2005 business license tax year shall be the maximum rate allowed by State law as in effect on February 1, 2005. Declining rates shall not apply.

b. In conformity with S.C. Code section 58-9-2220, the business license tax for "retail telecommunications services" shall apply to the gross income derived from the sale of retail telecommunications services for the preceding calendar or fiscal year which either originate or terminate in the municipality and which are charged to a service address within the municipality regardless of where these amounts are billed or paid and on which a business license tax has not

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been paid to another municipality. The measurement of the amounts derived from the retail sale of mobile telecommunications services shall include only revenues from the fixed monthly recurring charge of customers whose service address is within the boundaries of the municipality. For a business in operation for less than one year, the amount of business license tax shall be computed on a twelve-month projected income.

Section 2.

a. For the year 2005, the business license tax for "retail telecommunications services" shall be due on February 1, 2005, and payable by February 28, 2005, without penalty. For years after 2005, the business license tax for "retail telecommunications services" shall be due on January 1 of each year and payable by January 31 of that year, without penalty.

b. The delinquent penalty shall be five percent (5 %) of the tax due for each month, or portion thereof, after the due date until paid.

Section 3.

Exemptions in the business license ordinance for income from business in interstate commerce are hereby repealed. Properly apportioned gross income from interstate commerce shall be included in the gross income for every business subject to a business license tax.

Section 4.

a. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted to interfere with continuing obligations of any franchise agreement or contractual agreement in the event that the franchise or contractual agreement should expire after December 31, 2003.

b. All fees collected under such a franchise or contractual agreement expiring after December 31, 2003, shall be in lieu of fees or taxes which might otherwise be authorized by this Ordinance.

Section 5.

As authorized by S. C. Code section 5-7-300, the Agreement with the Municipal Association of South Carolina for collection of current and delinquent license taxes from telecommunications companies pursuant to S. C. Code section 58-9-2200 shall continue in effect. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Agreement, for the year 2005, the Municipal Association of South Carolina is authorized to collect current and delinquent license taxes, in conformity with the due date and delinquent date for 2005 as set out in this Ordinance and is further authorized, for the year 2005, to disburse business license taxes collected, less the

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service charge agreed to, to this municipality on or before April 1, 2005, and thereafter as remaining collections permit.

Section 6.

All previous ordinances, or portions of ordinances, in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

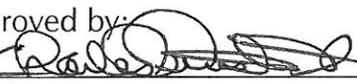
This Ordinance shall be effective on the date of final reading.

Requested by:



MAYOR

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:

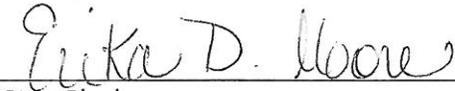


City Attorney

Introduced: 9/15/2004

Final Reading: 9/22/2004

ATTEST:



City Clerk

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