



CITY OF COLUMBIA

Business Friendly Initiatives

1. ELIMINATE WATER AND SEWER CHANGE OF USE FEE

Owners will no longer be charged a capacity fee when a commercial property is redeveloped for a change in use. For example, if a building changes from retail to restaurant use and the meter size is under 4", no capacity fee will be charged. On changes larger than 4" credits for existing service will now be made.

2. NEW BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION AND RENEWAL PROCESS SIMPLIFIED

Neither personal or company income tax returns will need to be shown in order to apply or renew your business license. It is estimated that the full process will be online by the fourth quarter of 2022.

3. ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY AND NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GREASE CAPTURE COSTS

City staff will work with a project's engineer, architect or plumber to approve the best option for the project's needs for grease capture including grease traps, grease interceptors or other options as they become available.

A reimbursable loan program is available that can offset 50% of your grease capture costs, up to \$10,000. We are also evaluating the potential for a rebate program for these improvements.

4. ON-SITE PARKING REQUIREMENTS

The city will no longer require on-site parking or require a business to rent off-site parking in order to receive an occupancy permit for commercial and retail buildings 7500 sq ft or less. Parking for residential buildings will be required.

5. MAKING RENOVATIONS TO AND REMODELING EXISTING BUILDINGS SIMPLER AND MORE AFFORDABLE

Businesses will no longer be required to remove existing parking spaces in order to meet landscape requirements for redevelopment.

6. NEW FOCUS ON ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

a. Adding full-time business recruiter(s) who will specialize in recruiting urban economic development opportunities and tax base, such as hotels, restaurants, retail, entertainment venues and corporate partners.

b. Establishing project manager(s) to assist local businesses with expansion, help new businesses open and to guide and assist new investments through the permitting process.

