

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING SECTION 15-83 OF THE SAN ANTONIO CITY CODE TO REQUIRE THAT A PERSON REGISTERING IN ANY HOTEL PRESENT IDENTIFICATION AT REGISTRATION SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH THE PERSON'S TRUE IDENTITY; THAT THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, OR HIS EMPLOYEE, AGENT OR REPRESENTATIVE DOCUMENT THE IDENTIFICATION PROVIDED; PROVIDING FOR A CRIMINAL FINE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00 FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION.

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**WHEREAS**, currently, the owner or operator of any hotel is required to maintain a register of all persons accommodated in such establishment which includes the registered person's name, home address, and duration of stay in such establishment; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council believes that, in an effort to deter illegal activity, it is necessary to require that the person registering at such establishment present identification at registration sufficient to establish the person's true identity for potential law enforcement purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council wishes to establish a method of identification which clarifies for hotel operators which identification is acceptable to establish identity for law enforcement purposes while minimizing disruption of business activity, and

**WHEREAS**, City Council finds that it is in the interest of public safety that proper identification be obtained to allow emergency responders to properly identify sick, ill or injured persons and to allow for notification of next of kin in case of emergency or death; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to amend the San Antonio City Code to reflect this amendment; NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. Section 15-83 of the San Antonio City Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

- (a) No person registering in a hotel shall do so or attempt to do so under any false name or identity. No person registering in a hotel shall present for the purpose of registration, false identification or any identification which misrepresents or fails to disclose the registrant's true identity.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the owner or operator of any hotel as defined in this chapter to keep, in a format chosen by the hotel sufficient to comply with the record keeping requirements set out in this ordinance, a register, of persons accommodated in such establishment for the purpose of verifying registrants' identities. Such register shall include, for all guest rooms and guest stays, either: (1) the name of the registrant, the type of official photo identification presented and any personal identification number contained thereupon, the registrant's address, and the expected duration of the registrant's stay in such establishment; or, in the alternative, (2) documentation that the person guaranteed payment using a valid credit card issued in the name of the registrant as provided by the registrant, which at the time of registration, was verified through the hotel's customary credit card verification procedures. No such owner or operator, or his employee, agent or representative shall knowingly write, cause to be written or permit to be written, in any register in any such hotel any other or different name or designation than the true name of the person so registered therein, or the name by which such person is generally known.
- (c) Such record or register shall be available at all times for inspection by any officer of the police department of the city, and maintained for a period of two years.
- (d) Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00)

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish public notice of this ordinance in accordance with Section 17 of the City Charter.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect five days from the date of publication of this ordinance, or approximately August 12, 2004.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 29th day of July, 2004.



M A Y O R

EDWARD D. GARZA

ATTEST: Leticia M. Vaetz  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: M. Bernadette M. Kay  
City Attorney