

**LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE
TEXT AMENDMENT**

REQUESTED ACTION: Adopt Sumter County Land Development Code provisions for internet cafes and other electronic gaming businesses.

CASE SUMMARY:

Sumter County residents have voiced concerns about crime associated with internet cafes and their potential impact on surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Sumter County Sheriff's Office reports that there have been 564 law enforcement service calls to internet café businesses in Sumter County over the past 18 months. The frequency of law enforcement service calls and the type of criminal activity warranting a law enforcement response, poses significant risk to neighboring residential uses and minors. The proposed ordinance addresses these concerns as follows:

1. New internet café businesses are limited to Regional Commercial (CR) and Industrial (ID) zoning districts.
2. New internet café businesses will require a 1000-ft setback from residentially zoned properties with residential future land use, or a residential planned development. This provision prevents new businesses from establishing near suburban residential uses.
3. New internet café businesses will require a 2,500-ft setback from sensitive uses such as schools, public playgrounds, churches, and day care centers.
4. Establishes a zoning approval process that includes an operating permit. New and existing internet cafes will be required to maintain a current operating permit. This facilitates enforcement of required operating procedures and the ability to address ongoing public concerns at individual businesses.
5. Restricts business hours to 8 AM – midnight. The majority of law enforcement responses were after midnight.
6. Establishes security operating standards that include limiting hours to 8 AM-midnight, requiring a private security guard in the evenings, video security system, silent alarms, secure cash management systems, signage, and prohibition on alcohol sales.

Additional operating standards, limitations, and exceptions are provided in the proposed ordinance.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF CONCLUSIONS:

Staff deems the proposed operating permit in compliance with the requirements of the Sumter County Land Development Code and recommends Approval.