



CITY OF LAKE FOREST
100 Civic Center Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 461-3400
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www.lakeforestbusiness.com

SUBJECT: CITY OF LAKE FOREST BUSINESS LICENSE

We appreciate your interest in starting a business in Lake Forest. As part of its “*Business Friendly*” practice, the City does not require a business license and does not collect an annual renewal fee for businesses operating within City limits. However, prior to purchasing or leasing a property, contact our Planning Division at (949) 461-3535 to inquire about the property you are interested in and ensure your proposed business use meets the City’s zoning regulations and is legally permitted to operate in your proposed location.

In addition, the City zoning Code requires certain types of businesses obtain special permits such as Site Development permits or use Permits requiring review by the Planning Commission. Moreover, other types of businesses require review or permits issued by other public agencies including, but not limited to: massage establishments, alcohol sales, secondhand dealers, gun dealers, and live entertainment. In addition, if you are considering establishing a home-based business, please discuss the City’s home Occupation ordinance with our Planning Division.

As part of our business development effort, we encourage business owners to complete and return the attached Business Registration Form. Information from this voluntary registration is used to contact business owners with information regarding free seminars, workshops and networking events, and ensures you receive the City’s *In Business* newsletter. To assist further with your business needs, the City created a website dedicated to serving our business community at www.lakeforestbusiness.com. It contains valuable information, including a Business Resource Guide, to help answer your questions about establishing a business in our City.

In Lake Forest, we pride ourselves on our “*Business Friendly*” environment. For additional information or questions about starting a business in Lake Forest, please contact our Economic Development Division at (949) 461-3567 or by e-mail at economicdevelopment@lakeforestca.gov