

Bauer, Laura - CM

From: Ai Ling Chow <ai@bathgeek.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 10, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Bauer, Laura - CM
Subject: Denied Commerce City General Business License

Dear Ms Bauer,

I would like to appeal the denial of my General Business License Application. It was stated that my proposed home occupation is believed to violate Commerce City Land Development Code Section 21-5240(3)(c) and (e). I would like to address these two as follows:

Section 21-5240(3)(c) states that the code prohibits activities or use of equipment or materials on more than an intermittent basis so as to change the fire safety or occupancy classification of the premises.

- a) Soap making, bath bomb making, bubble bath making etc involves mixing of the same type as baking—I use a stick blender (such as a Hamilton Beach household stick mixer), a stand mixer (such as a Kitchenaid countertop stand mixer), or a crock pot (such as the Crock Pot brand pots). Other than this, I don't have any equipment except for molds, which are the same sorts of molds used in baking.
- b) I would like to point out that none of these activities impacts the fire safety or occupancy classification because these are the same activities I would do if I were baking or cooking. (In fact, baking is more dangerous, since I use my oven in baking, which I don't when making soap. I also don't use a stove.)
- c) None of my equipment is left unattended—I am always paying attention. This is actually more consideration and precaution than I take for baking or cooking, as I use my crock pot overnight for cooking such as pot roast.

I hope it is clear that nothing I do makes my home any less safer and should not change the classification of my home. Therefore I disagree with the assessment and would like to ask for reconsideration on this point.

Section 21-5240(3)(e) prohibits the use or storage of chemicals or processes that are not customarily associated with domestic use.

- a) The lye I use, sodium hydroxide, is sold in hardware stores as oven cleaner or drain cleaner because of its grease dissolving properties. If you look at the labels of Red Devil drain cleaner or Drano, for example, you will see that one of the ingredients (main ingredients) is sodium hydroxide. This is a household chemical. In fact, to make bagels, you need a lye solution as well.
- b) Potassium hydroxide is found in soaps, oven/drain/pipe cleaners, hairsprays, dental cleaners, etc. Potassium hydroxide is also part of the components of alkaline batteries. It is even used to glaze pretzels before baking. This is also a household chemical.

All the chemicals I use are still considered household chemicals, and I would like to request reconsideration on this point as well.

If Commerce City would like me to arrange for a demonstration of soap making in order to make a determination on whether or not to approve my license application, I would be more than happy to oblige. Please reconsider my business license application.

Ai Ling Chow
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