Business Tax Certificate / Permit Requirements: In-City Commercial Locations

Below is a list of requirements. Additional fees/applications/supplemental documents may be required for specific business types, per Hawthorne Municipal Codes. 

Note: Failure to provide requested information and/or supplemental documents will result in non-issuance of permit and is a violation of Hawthorne Municipal Code 5.06.020. Please contact the office directly for verification of required supplemental documents.

Type of Organization

Sole Proprietor (“single ownership”)
- Completed Application for Business Tax Certificate/Permit (all fields on application must be completed)
  - Business start date, business name (owner’s name or DBA), business phone number, emergency contact number (numbers may not be one in the same), business mailing address, “type of business” (description of business’ services)
  - “Applicant” = Owner only and must provide home address, personal contact number, birth date, DMV issued driver’s license or identification number, and social security number
  - Property owner’s name
  - Estimated gross receipts (contact office for instructions)
  - Signature and date
- Completed Commercial / Industrial Use Questionnaire (Must be signed by “applicant” listed on the Application. All fields/questions are must completed)
- Business identification numbers form

Partnership (two or more owners/partners)
- Completed Application for Business Tax Certificate/Permit (Must provide information for all owners/partners. All fields on application must be completed)
  - Business start date, business name, business phone number, emergency contact number (numbers may not be one in the same), business mailing address, “type of business” (description of business’ services)
  - “Applicant” = owner/partner of the company
  - All partners must be listed on the application and provide name, home address, personal contact number, birth date, DMV issued driver’s license or identification number, and social security number. Property owner’s name
  - Estimated gross receipts (contact office for instructions)
  - Signature and date
- Completed Commercial / Industrial Use Questionnaire (Must be signed by “applicant” listed on the Application. All fields/questions are required to be completed)
- Business identification numbers form

Limited Liability Partnership / Company
- Completed Application for Business Tax Certificate/Permit (Must provide information for all owners/partners. All fields on application are required)
  - Business start date, business name (list DBA first and then the LLP/LLC name in parenthesis to the right, in the same field), business phone number, emergency contact
number (numbers may not be one in the same), business mailing address, “type of business” (description of business’ services)
  o "Applicant" = owner/partner of the company
  o All owners/partners/officers/members must be listed and provide home address, personal contact number, birth date, DMV issued driver’s license or identification number, and social security number
  o Property owner’s name
  o Estimated gross receipts (contact office for instructions)
  o Signature and date

- Completed Commercial / Industrial Use Questionnaire (Must be signed by “applicant” listed on the Application. All fields/questions are required to be completed)
- Business identification numbers form
- Articles of Limited Liability Partnership filed & endorsed by the Secretary of State
- “Statement of Information” filed & endorsed by the Secretary of State (official list of partners / members)

**Corporation**
- Completed Application for Business Tax Certificate/Permit (Must provide information for all owners/partners. All fields on application are required)
  o Officers must provide address, contact number, DMV issued driver’s license or identification number, and social security number or Federal Employer I.D. number in lieu of a valid social security number
  o Business start date, business name (list DBA first and then the Incorporated business name in parenthesis to the right, within the same field), business phone number, emergency contact number (numbers may not be one in the same), business mailing address, “type of business” (description of business’ services)
  o “Applicant” = a corporate officer of the company
  o All corporate officers must be listed and provide address, office contact number, birth date, DMV issued driver’s license or identification number, and social security number or the Federal Employer Identification number may be provided in lieu of social security number
  o Property owner’s name
  o Estimated gross receipts (contact office for instructions)
  o Signature and date

- Completed Commercial / Industrial Use Questionnaire (Must be signed by “applicant” listed on the Application. All fields/questions are required to be completed)
- Business identification numbers
- Articles of Incorporation filed/endorsed by the Secretary of State
- “Statement of Information” filed/endorsed by the Secretary of State (official list of corporate officers / members)

**Additional required documents (if applicable)**
- Copy of signed bill of sale or closing Escrow for business (change of ownership/transfer/merger)
- Copy of signed bill of sale or closing Escrow for property
- Copy of original signed lease agreement and/or sub-lease (must have written consent from property owner and/or business owner)
- Fictitious Name / D.B.A. (“Doing Business As”)
- Seller’s permit

**Application Process**
- Submit application to Licensing & Cashiering for review & calculations
• Minimum Fees for in-city commercial location: $56.00 Application processing fee, $223.00 commercial use location fee, $4.00 annual State mandated fee (SB1186), and annual pre-paid business tax (This fee varies depending on type of business. Please contact office for calculations.)

II. Approval must be obtained by Planning & Zoning prior to issuance of permit.
• Please contact Planning & Zoning for verbal authorization and any special restrictions. Contact number is 310-349-2970.

III. All business license tax certificates / permits expire on December 31st, annually. Renewals are due no later than January 31st or penalties and fines apply.

IV. Licensing must be notified immediately if of the following occur; business moves locations, change of address, change of ownership/change in entity, or ceases. Additional requirements/filings may apply.

V. Additional / separate requirements/permits are required for specific types of businesses, such as solicitors, charitable solicitation, distribution of handbill, and special events. Please contact the office directly for additional information/instructions.