NEWS RELEASE

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Cottleville Expands Retail Opportunities in Old Town Historic District

City Reduces Regulatory Barriers to Encourage Small Business Growth and Retail Investment

COTTLEVILLE, MO – The City of Cottleville is making it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to open their doors in the Old Town Historic District.

On October 21, 2026, the Cottleville Board of Aldermen approved Bill No. 26-055, which, upon passage and Mayor Stephen Thompson's signature, became Ordinance No. 2302. The ordinance expands the types of retail businesses permitted within the City's Old Town Special District, eliminating the requirement for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for many retail establishments.

The change reflects an intentional effort by City leadership to reduce governmental red tape, encourage small business investment, promote entrepreneurship, and strengthen Old Town's identity as a vibrant shopping, dining, and entertainment destination.

Under the revised ordinance, a broader range of retail businesses can now operate without obtaining a Conditional Use Permit. These include clothing boutiques, specialty food shops, bakeries, furniture and home furnishing stores, and many other retail establishments.

Previously, all retail businesses were required to navigate the City's Conditional Use Permit process, which involves additional application requirements, public hearings, and governmental approvals. By removing this requirement for qualifying retail uses, the City is reducing the time, expense, and regulatory hurdles associated with opening a business.

"We want Cottleville to be a community where small businesses have the opportunity to succeed," said Mayor Stephen Thompson. "By simplifying our approval process and removing unnecessary regulatory barriers, we're sending a clear message that Cottleville welcomes entrepreneurs and retail investment. Our goal is to continue building on the unique character and success of Old Town while making it easier for businesses to become part of our community."

The ordinance maintains existing zoning and development standards, and certain commercial uses will continue to require conditional approval to ensure compatibility with the surrounding district.

While this ordinance specifically addresses Old Town Cottleville, many other commercially zoned properties throughout the City already provide similar flexibility for a wide range of retail and commercial businesses. The City's broader commitment to supporting entrepreneurship, encouraging private investment, and fostering a business-friendly environment extends well beyond Old Town.

Whether you're looking to open a boutique in historic Old Town, establish a new retail storefront, or expand an existing business elsewhere in the community, the message is clear: Cottleville is Open for Business!

Business owners, entrepreneurs, and property owners interested in establishing or expanding a business in Cottleville are encouraged to contact City Hall to learn more about available commercial opportunities and applicable development requirements.

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