



# City of Apache Junction

## Development Services Department



### CITY COUNCIL STAFF MEMO

**Date:** May 20, 2025

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**Through:** Bryant Powell, City Manager  
Rudy Esquivias, Development Services Director  
Sidney Urias, Development Services Deputy Director

**From:** Nick Leftwich, Senior Planner

**Subject:** Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 8: Business regulations concerning fortune telling businesses

Following the April 24<sup>th</sup> City Council discussion regarding fortune telling businesses and the permit fees prescribed to them in the Apache Junction City Code, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Business, Staff coordinated with the Police Department and confirmed city policies and procedures for the business license staff reviews of fortune telling businesses. There was a question raised regarding whether the \$1,200 permit fee is necessary and if it is to be used for background checks, but staff found that no background checks are performed for these businesses. The Police Department noted they would need explicit authority from the City Code to conduct background checks, such as is required by the code for specific other business types, such as sexually oriented businesses or liquor licenses. In the absence of such a requirement and practice we found no need for the city to continue charging an annual \$1200 fee in addition to standard business licensing costs.

On May 6, 2026, the City Council gave Direction to Staff to review and consider updates to the Apache Junction City Code, Volume I, Chapter 8: Business regulations concerning fortune telling businesses and the permit fees prescribed for them. Pursuant to this direction, Ordinance No. 1564 has been drafted.

Attachment:  
-Ordinance No. 1564

*Nick Leftwich*

Prepared by Nicholas Leftwich  
Senior Planner