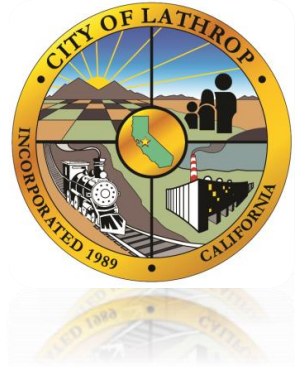




# Discussion Regarding Hookah Lounge

City Council Meeting October 9, 2023  
*Item 5.6*

# Background



- ▶ On September 11, 2023, the City Council directed staff to bring back a presentation to further discuss the possibility of adopting regulations related to Hookah Lounges within the City of Lathrop.

# Hookah Lounge Definition

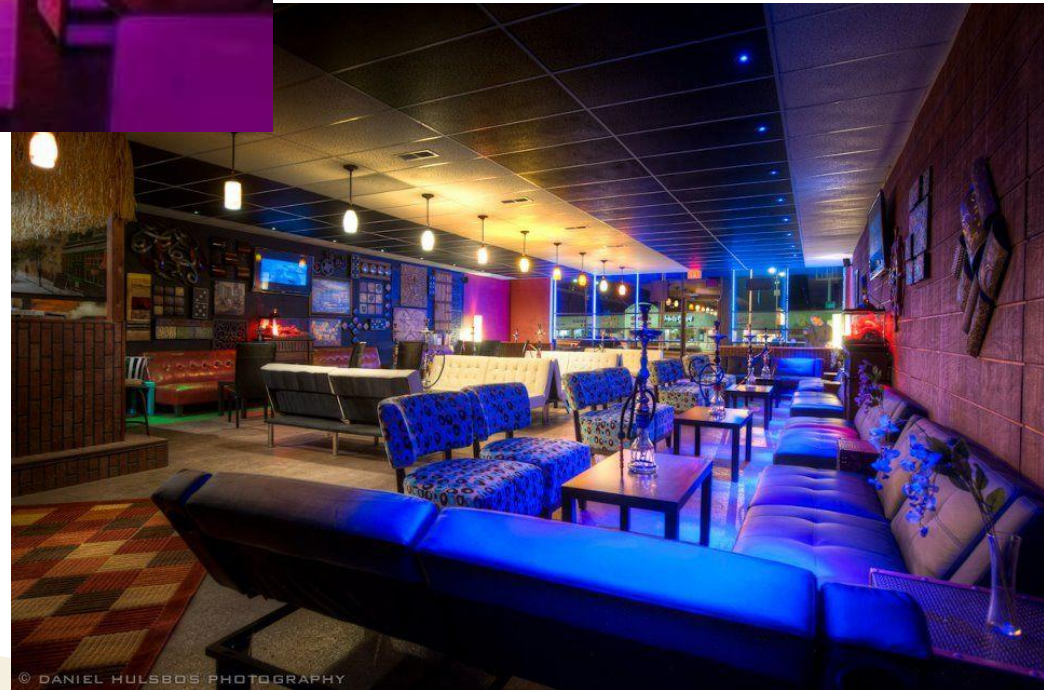


- ▶ An establishment holding a valid Tobacco Retail License that exclusively occupies an indoor space and is primarily engaged in the retail sale of hookah tobacco for consumption by customers on site.
- ▶ Hookah is a device used to smoke tobacco (called shisha).
- ▶ A typical hookah has a head, a metal body, a water bowl, and a flexible hose with a mouthpiece that is used to inhale the smoke. In most hookah, hot charcoal is placed on top of the tobacco to heat it.

# Hookah Parts



# Hookah Lounge

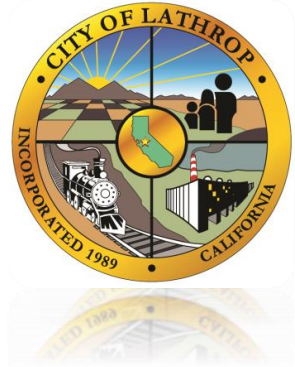


# State Regulations



- ▶ Hookah lounges (that meet the definition of a “retail or wholesale tobacco shop” per CA Labor Code 6404.5) are exempt from California’s Smoke-free Workplace Law, allowing smoking indoors legal.
- ▶ Hookah Lounges are exempt from California’s ban on flavored tobacco products (Senate Bill 793).
- ▶ The minimum age of sale for tobacco products in CA is 21 (18 for active duty military personnel) There is no minimum age requirement to enter a hookah lounge.
- ▶ Tobacco shops are not allowed to sell alcoholic beverages or food for consumption on premises.

# Pros and Cons of Hookah



## ► Pros:

- Enjoyed in a group setting as a social hub
- Economic benefit (jobs and sales tax)
- Entertainment options (live music, themed nights, etc.)
- Social and cultural preservation (hookah is deeply ingrained in various cultural traditions)

# Pros and Cons of Hookah

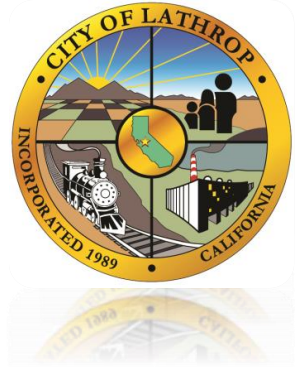


## ► Cons:

- Charcoal is used to heat the shisha (can increase health risks: production of carbon monoxide, heavy metals, and cancer-causing chemicals)
- Flavored hookah (apple, peach, strawberry) can appeal to younger demographic
- Second hand smoke



# Local Regulations



- ▶ Regulations may include:
  - Conditional Use Permit or permitted by-right
  - Limit to specific zoning districts
  - Limit the number of hookah lounges permitted
  - Hours or operation restriction
  - Distance requirements (schools, parks, other hookah lounge)

# Survey



- ▶ San Joaquin County
  - Permitted in Commercial Zoning Districts
  
- ▶ City of Manteca
  - Conditional Use Permit – Mixed Use and General Commercial Zoning.
  
- ▶ City of Modesto
  - Permitted – Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts. Conditional Use Permit if associated with on-site alcohol consumption.
  
- ▶ City of Riverbank
  - Conditional Use Permit - Neighborhood Commercial with distance requirements – 1,000 ft. from other hookah, 500 ft. from residential, and 600 ft. from schools and parks.
  
- ▶ Not permitted in Tracy, Lodi, and Stockton.

# Council Direction



- ▶ Questions and answers