



**Town of Highland Park, Texas**  
**TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**  
**AGENDA**

8:00 AM  
March 3, 2026

4700 Drexel Drive Highland Park, TX 75205  
Executive Conference Room, Second Floor

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This portion of the agenda is the public's opportunity to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda, except public hearings. Comments related to public hearings will be heard when the specific hearing begins. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless otherwise required by law. Per the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Town Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any item not listed on the agenda. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's sole discretion.

**III. FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSION**

- A. Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council Meeting agenda.

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Review and discuss the 2025 Horse-Drawn Carriage Report.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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Any item on this posted agenda could be discussed in closed session as long as it is within one of the permitted categories under Sections 551.071 through 551.076 and 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

A member of the public may address the governing body regarding an item on the agenda either before or during the body's consideration of the item, upon being recognized by the presiding officer or the consent of the body.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Let us know if you need special assistance of any kind.

Please contact the Town of Highland Park Administrative staff at (214) 521-4161 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



**Town of Highland Park  
Town Council Study Session  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**Item Coversheet**

**Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council Meeting agenda.**

**PRESENTED BY:** Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary

**BACKGROUND:**

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This item is provided at the request of the Mayor for a member of the Town Council to request that an item be placed on a future Town Council study session agenda for discussion or consideration. Town Council discussion and consideration would be limited to including a potential agenda item and scheduling such on a future agenda. The agenda item would be included in the study session agenda of regular Town Council meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends approval of the inclusion of the agenda item for future regular Town Council meetings (not special or emergency).

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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This item has no financial impact.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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None



**Town of Highland Park  
Town Council Study Session  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**Item Coversheet**

**Review and discuss the 2025 Horse-Drawn Carriage Report.**

**PRESENTED BY:** Chuck McGinnis, Director of the Department of Public Safety/Chief

**BACKGROUND:**

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Carriage tours are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, adding to the community's festive spirit during the Christmas season. Town ordinance provides for the regulation of horse-drawn carriages. In the 2025 season, four vendors employed 81 carriage drivers in the Town, with a total of 65 carriages permitted. Carriage tours are approximately one hour in duration.

The attached PowerPoint will discuss the Town ordinance, fee structure imposed on the participating vendors, the revenue collected from this program, the complaints received by the public, and the call load for DPS that was generated by this program. The presentation is intended to provide council information for review and assist with any discussion of potential modifications to the regulation of commercial horse-drawn carriage operations within the Town.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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No recommendation. This is for information only.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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None

**ATTACHMENTS**

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2025 Carriage Presentation



THE TOWN OF

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TEXAS

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# 2025 Horse-Drawn Carriage Report

Tuesday, March 3, 2026



# Agenda

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- Article 12.11 Regulation of Carriages
- Fee Structure
- Vendors
- 2025 vs. 2024
- Complaints Received
- Call load
- Q&A



# Ordinance on Regulation of Carriages

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- Article 12.11 in the code of ordinances provides for the regulation of commercial horse-drawn carriages.
- All vendors must obtain a carriage license issued by the Town to be able to operate.
- All vendors must register each carriage that will operate in Town limits through a registration process with the Town.
- Each person who will drive a carriage must first obtain a carriage driver permit through the Town.
- All vendors must be insured meeting the Town's set requirements.



# Ordinance on Regulation of Carriages

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- Carriages must be equipped with devices to prevent manure on Town streets.
- Operation hours: Sunday-Thursday (5pm-11pm), Friday and Saturday (5pm-12:30am).  
\*\*During HPISD Holiday break all days are 5pm-12:30am.
- All carriages must be equipped with lighting and slow-moving vehicle emblem.
- All draft animals must be equipped with white, amber, or yellow marker lights or reflective material visible from a distance of 500 ft. from front and sides.
- Carriage drivers must abide by all typical driving rules, laws and regulations.



# Carriage Fee Structure

Vendor License Fee	\$100/vendor
Carriage Permit Fee	\$50/carriage
Carriage Driver Permit Fee	\$25/driver
Driver Background Check Processing Fee	\$40/driver
Franchise Fee per vendor	5% of gross revenues



# Licensed Vendors 2025

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- Brazos Carriage Company – 21 carriages / 21 drivers
- North Star Carriages – 16 carriages / 14 drivers
- Threejays Carriages – 16 carriages / 22 drivers
- Whitehaven and Associates – 12 carriages / 24 drivers



# 2025/2024 Comparison

Company	2025 gross revenue	2024 gross revenue
Brazos	\$82,440	\$52,830
North Star	\$453,454.80	\$334,650
ThreeJays	\$499,380	\$415,785
Whitehave	\$228,576	\$159,263.30
TOTAL	\$1,263,850.80	\$962,528.30



# 2025/2024 Comparison

Company	2025 fees collected	2024 fees collected
Brazos	\$6,637	\$5,006.50
North Star	\$24,482.74	\$18,867.50
ThreeJays	\$27,299	\$23,069.25
Whitehaven	\$13,688.79	\$9,993.16
TOTAL	\$72,107.53	\$56,936.41



# Complaints Received

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- Three phone calls (2 to Joanna, 1 to Chief McGinnis) from non-residents, all citing concerns for horse safety and wishing to ban carriages.
- Four emails to Town all with similar language wishing the Town to ban horse carriages citing animal safety.



# Call Load for DPS

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- 6 Total calls in relation to Horse-Drawn Carriages
  - Officer Initiated call to advise carriage about lights
  - 2 calls in relation to carriages standing in a no parking zone waiting for customers
  - 1 call in which juveniles were using a train horn in attempt to scare horses
  - 1 accident in which a tour bus struck a carriage and left the scene. No injuries (human or animal), very minor damage to carriage.
  - 1 call in which a wheel fell off of a carriage – no injuries, carriage repaired and removed.



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