

9.08.020 - Cardrooms.

- A. Cardrooms in the City of Merced may only be located in areas zoned as follows:
 - 1. Central Commercial (C-C);
 - 2. Commercial Thoroughfare (C-T);
 - 3. General Commercial (C-G).
- B. It is unlawful and a misdemeanor, subject to punishment in accordance with Chapter 1.12 of this Code, for any person, either as principal, agent, employee, or otherwise, to play, conduct, or deal any game of cards in any cardroom, or in any other public place or place resorted to generally by the public, between the hours of two a.m. and six a.m. of any day, with the exception of a duly licensed cardroom operating in a Commercial Thoroughfare (C-T) zone or Central Commercial (C-C) zone pursuant to a conditional use permit which regulates the hours of operation.
- C. Any person operating a cardroom shall be responsible and liable for patron security and safety in and around the gaming establishment. Security guards shall be provided in such number and at such times as directed by the chief of police, or as may otherwise be required by conditional use permit.
- D. As of April 18, 2016, there are two cardrooms authorized to operate within the City of Merced, each of which had four (4) card tables. There shall be no increase in the existing number of cardrooms without the approval of a majority of the voters of the city.
- E. The city hereby increases the number of authorized card tables within the city from eight (8) card tables to sixteen (16) card tables. There shall be no increase in the number of card tables beyond sixteen (16) card tables without the approval of a majority of the voters of the city.
- F. In order for a cardroom to increase the number of card tables from the four (4) card tables that existed as of April 18, 2016, the operator must first obtain a conditional use permit to add additional card tables. A cardroom operator may apply for up to eight (8) additional card tables subject to the overall limit of sixteen (16) card tables within the city; provided, however, that under no circumstances shall a cardroom have more than twelve (12) card tables.
- G. If a cardroom operator obtains a conditional use permit to add additional card tables, the new card tables must be added within one (1) year from the date of approval of the conditional use permit. Otherwise, the right to add the additional card tables shall automatically expire and the number of card tables allowed in that cardroom shall revert back to the number of card tables that existed prior to the approval of the conditional use permit.
- H. There shall be no city-imposed limits on bets and wagers in a cardroom located within the city. Individual cardroom operators may set their own limits on bets and wagers. The rules of each game and wagering limits shall be clearly posted at the gaming tables where the games are offered to provide the patrons adequate notice of such rules and limits.