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City of Charleston Appeals Tour Guide Licensing Program Ruling

Today, the city of Charleston filed a notice of appeal [[attached](#)] in response to U.S. District Court Judge David Norton's ruling regarding the city's tour guide licensing program. City attorney Carol Ervin issued the following statement about the appeal:

“For over thirty years the City maintained a successful tour guide licensing regime to ensure tour guides were qualified to charge the public fees for their services. The City continues to believe a mandatory licensing program for all tour guides is the most effective way to achieve the City's objective of protecting tourists, residents and the tourism industry from the problems caused by unqualified or unscrupulous guides. Despite the Court's ruling in this case, the City is confident that the mandatory licensing process for tour guides previously in place did not violate the First Amendment, as other courts, including the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, have held. The City has therefore filed an appeal challenging the District Judge's rulings in this case, and hopes to restore the successful mandatory licensing program as soon as possible.” – City of Charleston attorney Carol Ervin

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