

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
STAFF REPORT**

RPT #: SS2

Date Prepared: January 24, 2011 Council Meeting Date: February 1, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council
FROM: Steve Kemp, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Code Amendment – Pawnshops, Consignment Shops, Second Hand Dealers

SUMMARY:

Various State laws regulate businesses that involve predominantly used merchandise received by pawn, sale, or consignment shops. When the merchandise consists of weapons, gold, jewelry, and other high-value items, the possibility that the merchandise has been stolen is greater. As a result, the State laws impose restrictions on the businesses to curtail the trafficking of stolen property and assist law enforcement in the investigation of property crimes and the return of stolen items to victims.

State law also provides cities with the authority to adopt additional regulations of these businesses to fill in gaps in the State provisions and address specific local concerns. In 1999, the City of Peoria adopted a series of local provisions in Chapter 11 of the City Code. The Finance Department oversees the licensing of the businesses, and the Police Department monitors business operations and tracks merchandise reporting as part of its Criminal Investigation Bureau Program targeted at property crimes.

In a Study Session the Police Department and City Attorney's Office will present potential changes to the City's regulations of these businesses to ensure continued compliance with State law, to better assist the Police Department in resource utilization and recovering stolen property, and to address other current issues.

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