

Amendments to the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances – *Food Code: Grocery Stores*



Health, Environment, and Community
Engagement Committee,
Minneapolis City Council
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Current requirements

Section 203.20

Licensed grocery stores must:

- provide and maintain a minimum sales floor area of 2,000ft².
- provide and maintain a minimum of 4 adjoining off-street parking spaces.

Current exemptions

Section 203.30

The following are exempt:

- accessory use grocery stores
- gas stations under 300ft²
- stores in the central commercial district
- stores located in a shopping center

Rationale for current requirements

- Address problematic activities occurring at some small grocery stores.
- Ensure that grocery stores serve their intended purpose.

Key issues

- Some small grocery stores may not be able to meet requirements.
- They also may not qualify for an exemption.
- If they cannot meet the grocery store requirements or qualify for an exemption, they cannot obtain a license.

Proposed changes

- Modify square footage requirement [Section 203.20(a)]:

“All grocery stores not located on a commercial corridor shall provide and maintain a sales floor area of two thousand (2,000) square feet unless granted a waiver by the City Council.”

- Remove parking space requirement [Section 203.20(b)]

Rationale for proposed changes

- Recent ordinance improvements set high standards for stores, reducing the need for square footage and parking requirements.
- Parking requirements are typically articulated in the City's Zoning Code (Title 20, Chapter 541), not the Food Code.

Changes reflect City commitment

- **Goal:** A hub of economic activity and innovation: businesses - big and small - start, move, stay, and grow here
- **Strategic direction:** Regulations, policies, and programs, are efficient and reliable while protecting the public's interests