

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Community Development & Regulatory Services
Date: 6/21/2016
Referral: N/A
From: Community Planning & Economic Development
Lead Staff: Joan Hammell
Presented by: Linda Roberts
File Type: Ordinance
Subcategory: Code Amendment

Subject:

Business Made Simple: Sidewalk Food Cart Vendor Locations (16-00776)

Description:

1. Passage of Ordinance Title 10, Chapter 188 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances related to Food Code: Administration and Licensing, geographical boundaries authorized for operating sidewalk food carts.
2. Approving an amendment to the License Fee Schedule to reflect a change in the annual sidewalk food cart license fee from \$904 to \$818.

Previous Actions:

This item was referred to the Minneapolis City Council on June 17, 2016.

Ward/Address:

All Wards

Background/Analysis:

Mobile food vending has exploded in the past few years and become an integral part of our city's social identity. Good examples include the emergence of food trucks, the expedient growth of farmers' markets, and the ever present sidewalk food carts.

Our city leaders have adjusted quickly to maintain up to date regulations which protect public health, balance coexistence with brick-and-mortar restaurants, and encourage culinary entrepreneurs. These goals are similar to those held by the Minneapolis City Council in 1893 when the first licensing ordinances were enacted requiring food carts to obtain a business license. The locations currently available for operating sidewalk food carts have not changed significantly since then.

The primary objective of this amendment is to add additional locations for sidewalk food carts. The new areas include commercial corridors citywide. Since the start-up costs for sidewalk food vending are appreciably lower than those of a restaurant or a food truck, individuals interested in entering the food industry can learn the trade, build a brand, gain familiarity with licensing and health codes, and develop a customer base. It is not uncommon for mobile food vendors to transition their business to a restaurant. Roughly half of the food trucks in Minneapolis have a brick and mortar establishment. This is an economic development pattern worth repeating.

If this amendment is approved, significantly more economic opportunities are available for individuals pursuing sidewalk food cart licenses. Staff is also recommending decreasing the annual \$904 sidewalk food cart license fee to equal the \$818 annual license fee for food trucks.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Sidewalk Food Cart Map.pdf
2. Chapter 188.510 Amendment.doc