



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: August 8, 2011

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair - Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee

Subject: Sidewalk Café Furniture

Recommendation: That the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee approve amending Chapter 265 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances allowing sidewalk cafes throughout Minneapolis to store furniture and equipment in the café area when the business is not open.

Department Information

Prepared by: Grant Wilson, Manager of Business Licenses – (612) 673-3902

Approved by:

Henry Reimer, Interim Director of Regulatory Services

Dana Banwer, Director of Licensing & Environmental Services

Grant Wilson, Manager of Business Licenses

Presenters in Committee: Grant Wilson

Financial Impact

- No financial Impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: Public hearing notices were posted on the Business Licenses' website, sent to all neighborhood organizations, business associations, and sidewalk café license holders.
- City Goals: Jobs & Economic Vitality: Businesses — big and small — start here, stay here, thrive here.

Supporting Information

During the spring, summer and fall months, sidewalk cafes provide a pleasant dining experience for residents and visitors allowing them to take in the sounds and sights of urban life while dining. Hosting 232 sidewalk café licenses, the City of Minneapolis'

sidewalk cafes enhance the ambiance of neighborhoods and contribute to the unique charm of our urban communities.

In 2006 the Minneapolis City Council approved detailed sidewalk café licensing standards designed to assist applicants meet legal standards. In addition to other requirements, ordinance language provided that sidewalk cafes outside of the downtown or uptown areas must remove furniture and equipment when the café is not open for business. The purpose of this amendment is to eliminate this geographical restriction and allow all sidewalk cafes in Minneapolis to store furniture and equipment within their café area overnight.

The City of St. Paul requires applicants to secure a Sidewalk Café License and a Right of Way Obstruction Permit. Overnight storage of furniture and equipment is authorized by the Right of Way Obstruction Permit from April 1 – October 31.

Recommendation

That the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee approve amending Chapter 265 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances allowing sidewalk cafes throughout Minneapolis to store furniture and equipment in the café area when the business is not open.