

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz , Assistant City Manager
DATE: June 2, 2025
SUBJECT: Ordinance regulating mobile vendors
ITEM NUMBER: 10.a
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To approve ordinance number 1052 and ordinance summary for publication regarding regulations for mobile vendors.

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to approve an ordinance amendment to chapter 10, businesses regarding mobile vendors. The amendment is revising regulations for peddlers and solicitors, as well as adding language regarding food trucks and non-commercial door-to-door advocates.

DISCUSSION

With the construction of the destination playground a few years ago, the city has seen an increase in calls regarding licensing for ice cream and food trucks, as well as complaints regarding noise. The city has been requiring these businesses to obtain peddler permits and allowing them to park on public right-of-way. However, staff would like to codify a definition for these types of mobile businesses, as well as regulations regarding sound and locations. Furthermore, staff are recommending additional language amendments based on State Statutes, information from the League of MN Cities, and similar regulations in Ramsey County cities.

The proposed amendments are attached in ordinance 1052 and have been reviewed by the city attorney. Below is a summary of these changes.

- **Definitions** - definitions are being added for mobile food units (aka food trucks) and non-commercial door-to-door advocates. Staff are also recommending changes to the peddler and solicitor definitions based on information from the League of MN Cities.
- **Permit exemptions** - language is being added to exempt non-commercial door-to-door advocates and food trucks operating under certain circumstances.
- **Registration required** - per the League, the city cannot require solicitors to obtain a license under the Commerce Clause because it is a burden to commerce. However, we can require them to register at no cost. Additionally, the city cannot require non-commercial door-to-door advocates to obtain a license or registration.
- **Permit required** - staff are recommending that the duration of permits be extended from 90 days to six months. This allows businesses to operate spring - fall without having to obtain a second license. Although a majority of Ramsey County cities have their

permits expire within one year, staff feels that would be too big of an increase at this time.

- **Prohibited activities** - language is being added allowing food trucks to operate on Sundays. Additionally, language is being added to prohibit the use of sound amplification devices. This means that any mobile vendor, especially food trucks, cannot use speakers to call attention to themselves.
- **Additional requirements for food trucks** - this language is being recommended based on what other cities had in their code.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the above information, staff is recommending that the city council approve ordinance number 1052 and ordinance summary for publication regarding regulations for mobile vendors.

ATTACHMENTS

[Ordinance 1052](#)

[Ordinance 1052 summary](#)

[City comparison](#)

[League of MN Cities memorandum](#)