

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S MOBILE FOOD VENDING (MFV) ORDINANCE

Last Updated April 10, 2020

Over the last few years mobile food vendors and City staff have identified a number of challenges with the City's current mobile food vending ordinance, Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) 5.51, as well as opportunities to make it both easier to vend and for staff to process vending permits.

Current Challenges

- Complicated mobile food vending application process difficult to complete and to administer;
- Applications only available during a limited time;
- Mobile food vendors only allowed to vend from one location;
- Expensive City of Oakland permit fees;
- Additional process to vend in City parks;
- Buffer requirements from mobile food vendors and restaurants too restrictive;
- Limited compliance options for non-food vendors;
- Lack of overall compliance creates perception of uneven enforcement.

Recommended Changes

- Eliminate the cap on the number of mobile food vending permits and allow vendors to submit applications on a continuous basis;
- Allow vendors to operate from multiple locations;
- Incorporate merchandise and non-food vendors into the permitting process;
- Reduce City permit fees;
- Incentivize group sites and utilizing private property for vending;
- Streamline permitting process for vending in city parks;
- Reduce current buffer restrictions from other mobile food vendors and restaurants;
- Provide ongoing educational workshops and materials.

For more details, please review the chart of proposed changes to OMC 5.51.

Next Steps

The City of Oakland wants to hear your feedback on these recommended changes; please email mobilefoodvending@oaklandca.gov your thoughts and recommendations. Over the next few months, City staff will review your feedback and work on incorporating your ideas into the OMC amendments staff intends on presenting to City Council later this year.