



MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** April 18, 2022  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Dave Perrault, City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Food Truck Public Engagement

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
N/A	N/A	N/A

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**For Council Consideration**

The City Council will provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide their feedback to the City Council regarding the existing food truck ordinance.

**Background**

The City Council will provide members of the public the opportunity to provide input regarding the City’s existing ordinance regarding the regulation of food trucks. The City Council will take input from the public between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This will take place at City Hall (1245 Highway 96 West) in the Council Chambers. At 5:30 pm the Council will move on to other business.

The City Council previously considered updates to its Food Truck Ordinance at its June 14, 2021 City Council meeting (full memo and attachments are included under Attachment A of this memo). At the meeting, Council decided to table the item to a future work session for further discussion. The proposed updates would have imposed the following:

- Requiring the property owner/event host to obtain permit to host a food truck (similar to garage sales)
- Limiting the number of times a residential property could host a food truck to two events per calendar year
- Set an administrative penalty for violations of the ordinance (\$100)

It should be noted while the above changes are what the Council previously contemplated, the Council is seeking input on all aspects of the food truck ordinance, comments do not need to be limited to what was previously discussed.

As the ordinance stands today, a residential property can host a food truck, but the sales are limited to those attending a private/catered event, such as, a wedding or graduation party. From an enforcement perspective, it is difficult for the City to define what is considered a “private” event versus what constitutes sales to the general public. Non-residential properties are allowed to host food trucks and make sales to the general public, for example, Mounds View High School could host a food truck and make sales to the general public.

In 2021, the City issued 24 food truck licenses. Of those licenses, approximately 10 were for non-residential properties, such as, the University of Northwestern, Mounds View High School or Valentine Hills Elementary hosting a food truck. The remaining 14 licenses were residential properties hosting food trucks.

Of those residential properties, 3 reported to be a private or catered event, and 11 were for ongoing neighborhood gatherings. These numbers represent information reported to the City at the time of license application and may not represent the full extent of where licensed trucks operated in the City thereafter. For example, a previously licensed truck may have been subsequently hired at a different residential or non-residential property later in the summer which did not report the event to the City, or an event could have been later cancelled by the vendor or resident, making this difficult to track.

For reference, the Minnesota Department of Health licenses food trucks to ensure safe operation and food preparation standards are met. The City also licenses food trucks that operate in the City to ensure they meet City Ordinance requirements; the City also has the fire department inspect food trucks to ensure they meet minimum fire safety standards. There is no standard on regulating food trucks for Cities, some cities have little to no regulation while others have regulations similar to ours.

### **Budget Impact**

N/A

### **Attachment**

Attachment A: June 14, 2021 Memo on Proposed Food Truck Ordinance Changes