



FOOD TRUCK AND SIDEWALK VENDOR UPDATE

Community & Economic Development Department
Code Enforcement Division

Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee
May 13, 2024

RiversideCA.gov

1

BACKGROUND

Two-part report:

Part 1 – Food Truck discussion

- 1) Diana/Tyler
- 2) Code revision options to consider

Part 2 – Sidewalk Vendor discussion

- 1) Compliance resistant enforcement options



2

RiversideCA.gov

2

DISCUSSION – FOOD TRUCKS

Statistics:

- 1) 34 Licensed food trucks in the City.
- 2) 19 Administrative Citations issued since adoption of the ordinance in 2022.

Diana/Tyler:

- 1) 10-15 trucks operating on public street.
- 2) Sight obstructions/traffic hazards.



3



RiversideCA.gov

3

DISCUSSION – FOOD TRUCKS

Public Works memo:

- 1) 50' from driveways

Potential Challenges:

- 1) Parking disputes
- 2) "Saving" parking spots
- 3) Congestion/hazards
- 4) Other associated nuisances



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Public Works Engineering

DATE: March 13th, 2024
 TO: Gary Merk, Frank Antoniano, Erik Lee
 FROM: Nathan Mustafa - City Engineer
 CC: Mike Fittell, Ken Martinez, Phaedra Norton, Larry Gonzalez, Jack Liu, Gilbert Hernandez, Jennifer Lilly
 RE: Enforcement of Mobile Food Vending Vehicles Near Driveways

Chapter 5.36 of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC), Regulation of Mobile Food Vendors, regulates the type of vending and the time, place and manner of vending from vehicles upon the street in order to promote public safety. Authority for these regulations is granted to the City of Riverside by Section 22455 of the California Vehicle Code.

RMC 5.36.070 currently restricts vending vehicles from parking within 100 feet of intersections, traffic signals, and marked or unmarked crosswalks when making or attempting to make a sale. RCM 5.36.070 further restricts mobile food merchants from operating in a manner that blocks or obstructs the free movement of pedestrians or vehicles and provides the Director of Public Works with the authority to create no parking zones deemed necessary for the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles.

In response to field observations and public safety concerns shared with the City, the Public Works Department has determined that effective immediately mobile food vending vehicles shall be restricted from parking within 50 feet of any commercial, industrial or residential driveway. This restriction is to be enforced under RMC 5.36.070 / CVC 22455 by Code Enforcement and the Riverside Police Department. Parking Services officers in the field observing a potential violation will inform either Code Enforcement or EPD of the observed concern. An exhibit of the 50' driveway restriction zone is included in an attachment.

Procedures:

- Code Enforcement will engage mobile food vendors currently registered within the City to inform them of the 50' driveway restriction, and will update registration materials and the City's webpage to inform new registrants.
- Through April 30th, 2024, food vendors in violation of this direction should be provided with a first-time warning and required to relocate, failure to do so shall

4



RiversideCA.gov

4

DISCUSSION – FOOD TRUCKS

Options to consider for future amendments to RMC:

- 1) Required spacing/distance between trucks
- 2) Maximum time limits for single locations
- 3) Restricting/limiting streets allowing food trucks
- 4) Exploring other “best practices” from surrounding cities



5

RiversideCA.gov

5

DISCUSSION – SIDEWALK VENDORS

Many sidewalk vendors have complied and have:

- 1) Obtained permits and operate legally
- 2) Converted to a food truck
- 3) Ceased operating in the City



Approximately 3-4 main operators continue to do business illegally in 6-8 locations:

- 1) Small Claims Action
- 2) Injunction
- 3) Impound equipment (County Health)



6

RiversideCA.gov

6

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority #2 - Community Well-Being

- 2.4 Support programs and innovations that enhance community safety, encourage community engagement, and build public trust.
- 2.5 Foster relationships between community members, partner organizations, and public safety professionals to define, prioritize, and address community safety and social service needs.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



7

RiversideCA.gov

7

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee:

1. Receive and file a report on the current regulations and enforcement efforts regarding food trucks with potential code amendments, as well as an update on enforcement strategies for unpermitted, compliance resistant sidewalk vendors.
2. Provide staff direction on potential code amendments regarding food trucks, including but not limited to consideration of a 50-foot parking restriction adjacent to driveways and a restriction from parking food trucks on roadways with speed limits over 35 MPH.



8

RiversideCA.gov

8