



Mobile Food Vending in the City of Cedar Rapids

Table of Contents

Regulations Applicable to ALL Mobile Food Vending Units.....2

Mobile Vending in City Right-of-Way | ALL Mobile Food Vendors.....3

 Numbered or Metered Parking Space.....4

 Non-Numbered or Non-Metered Parking Space.....5

 Moving from Sale to Sale.....5

Mobile Food Vending in Association with Special Events and Carnivals.....6

Mobile Food Vending on Private Property.....6

Mobile Food Vending in City Parks and Golf Courses.....7

Exemptions from City Mobile Food Vendor License Requirements.....7

Important Contacts.....8

Regulations Applicable to ALL Mobile Food Vending Units or Food Stands

Regulations apply to all vendors, regardless of location or type. Mobile food vendors shall comply with Federal, State and County Laws in relation to mobile food vending units.

No Mobile Food Vendor Shall:

- A. Leave a food cart unattended in the public right-of-way.
- B. Operate, store, leave unattended, or park any mobile vending unit in the public right-of-way between the hours of 2:00 AM- 6:30 AM.
- C. Leave any location without first picking up and removing all trash and refuse including all products spilled on the sidewalk as a direct result of the mobile food vending operation.
- D. Dispose of trash and refuse in a dumpster or trash receptacle which is not owned or permissible for use by the mobile food vendor.
- E. Sell to any person situated in a motor vehicle.
- F. Conduct any sale from a mobile food vending unit from a parking space which is designated as a handicap parking space.
- G. Conduct any sales from outside the mobile vending unit, unless a reasonable accommodation is necessary to serve a customer with a disability.
- H. Sell or attempt to sell alcoholic beverages and anything other than prepared, packaged, and/or whole unprocessed foods that are not potentially hazardous.
- I. Locate within three (3) feet of a fire hydrant or ten (10) feet of a building ingress/egress door.
- J. Operate a generator and/or vehicle motor which generates visible smoke, excessive noise, or excessive gasoline/diesel fumes.
- K. Use Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas without first obtaining a permit from the City of Cedar Rapids Fire Department.
- L. Leave less than six (6) feet of unobstructed passage on a public or private sidewalk.
- M. Operate a mobile food vending unit or food stand within a public alley.
- N. Stop, idle, or park in a location in which patrons or the mobile food vending unit, food stand or patrons thereof would be within a bike lane, fire lane, parking space not permitted for use by a mobile food vendor, sight-triangle or loading zone.
- O. Operate a mobile food vending unit or food stand within state or federal right-of-way.
- P. Mobile Food Vendors shall comply with Federal, State and County Laws in relation to Mobile Food Vending Units or food stands.

Mobile Vending in City Right-of-Way | ALL Mobile Food Vendors

Applicable to ALL mobile food vendors in the City owned right-of-way (location between the sidewalk and the street).

- A. No mobile food vendor shall operate a mobile food vending unit or food stand within or upon the public right-of-way without a mobile food vendor license pursuant to this Chapter.
- B. No mobile food vending unit or food stand shall operate in public right-of-way within 100 feet from the entrance of a restaurant measured as a 100 foot buffer of a point, located at the center of the primary entrance of a restaurant between 6:30 AM and 10:00 PM.
- C. Mobile food vendor licenses shall be issued for the numbered parking spaces based on existing restaurant locations at the time of application. The licensed numbered parking space or spaces shall be considered in conformance with this Chapter of the municipal code for the full license term.
- D. Neither food stands nor food carts shall locate in any on-street parking space in the public right-of-way.
- E. Neither food stands nor food carts shall locate within 5 feet of sidewalk ramps.
- F. No food truck shall locate upon a sidewalk.
- G. No food truck shall park within 35 feet of a stop sign in the direction of approach.
- H. All sales activities and the transfer of food and beverages to the customer shall occur only on the sidewalk side of the mobile vending unit.
- I. No food truck shall operate in angled parking spaces unless approved and licensed by the Office of the City Clerk.
- J. Neither the mobile food vendor, nor any employees or agents thereof shall shout, make any outcry, blow a horn, or use any other sound device including any loud speaking radio or amplifying system for the purpose of attracting attention to the operation.
- K. No mobile food vendor shall set up or maintain the use of any table, chair, crate, carton, rack or any other device placed within the public right-of-way, to market or provide a seating and/or eating area for the mobile food vending operation. This shall include providing tables, chairs or other furniture within the public right-of-way.
- L. Not more than one (1) sandwich board type sign (also known as A frame sign), no larger than six (6) square feet is permitted and shall be placed only on the sidewalk within five (5) feet of where the mobile food vending unit or food stand is located and be in conformance with 42A.07 §A10.

Please note: For vendors located in the right-of-way for more than four (4) consecutive hours, a restroom agreement with an adjacent structure will be required to obtain necessary permits through Linn County Public Health.

Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance, Chapter 42A of the Cedar Rapids Municipal Code available at <http://bit.ly/22JC17c>

Mobile Vending in City Right-of-Way | Numbered or Metered Parking Space

Applicable to mobile food vendors in the City owned right-of-way utilizing a numbered or metered parking space. These regulations are in addition to the regulations on pg. 3

- A. Food trucks operating in numbered or metered parking spaces shall also be subject to the following:
1. A food truck shall occupy, and be licensed for, no more than one (1) numbered or metered parking space at any given time unless said food truck cannot park entirely within one numbered or metered parking space; in this instance a food truck shall occupy, and be licensed for, no more than two (2) numbered or metered parking spaces.
 - i. Employee vehicles and any other vehicles associated with the food truck or the mobile food vending operation shall be legally parked in a parking ramp or off street parking lot.
 2. Parking for mobile food vending in a numbered space or spaces shall only be authorized between the hours of 6:30 AM and 10:00 PM when the City or its parking manager has reserved a dedicated, numbered space or spaces for the mobile food vending unit to operate.
 3. Parking for mobile food vending in a numbered space or spaces shall be authorized between the hours of 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM when a food truck is legally parked.
 4. Parking for mobile food vending in a metered parking space shall only be authorized when the City or its parking manager has reserved a dedicated, metered space or spaces for the mobile food vending unit to operate or the mobile food vendor is legally parked in the metered space or spaces and pays the required fee at the meter.
 5. Reservation of numbered or metered parking space shall require a fee paid in accordance with fee schedule set by the City or its parking manager.
 6. Numbered parking spaces reserved by a Mobile Food Vendor may be rendered temporarily or permanently unavailable with no notification to the licensee for the purposes of road construction, special events, and/or other circumstances requiring the use of the area where the parking space is located.

Mobile Vending in City Right-of-Way | Non-Numbered or Non-Metered Parking Space

Applicable to mobile food vendors in the City owned right-of-way utilizing a non-numbered or non-metered parking space. These regulations are in addition to the regulations on pg. 3

- A. Food trucks operating in non-numbered and non-metered parking spaces shall be subject to the following:
1. A mobile food vendor license shall be required.
 2. Mobile food vendors shall be legally parked.

Mobile Vending in City Right-of-Way | Moving from Sale to Sale

Applicable to mobile food vendors in the City owned right-of-way moving from sale to sale (for example, an ice cream truck). These regulations are in addition to the regulations on pg. 3

- A. Food Trucks engaging in intermittent sales in the public right-of-way shall also be subject to the following:
1. The mobile food vending unit shall not exceed five (5) miles per hour while playing music.
 2. Sales are restricted to pedestrians and only at such a time when the food truck has come to a complete stop and is legally parked.
 3. Hours of operation shall be no earlier than 10:00 AM and no later than 8:00 PM or sunset, whichever occurs first.
 4. No loudspeaker or other sound system which may disturb the peace in the area is permitted. Music from the food truck is permitted to draw attention to the sales operation, but shall not be of a magnitude to create a disturbance in the surrounding area.
 5. A sign displaying the name of the company and telephone number shall be affixed to the vehicle and be no smaller than one (1) square foot.

Mobile Food Vending in Association with Special Events and Carnivals

Examples of special events includes Downtown Farmer's Market, events at McGrath Amphitheatre, etc.

- A. Mobile food vending units or food stands approved by a Special Event Permit holder(s) operating in conjunction with said approved Special Event Permit or a Carnival and Fair Operational Permit holder(s) or similar permit issued by the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, shall not be required to obtain a mobile food vendor license from the Office of the City Clerk.
- B. A mobile food vending unit or food stand shall not be located in a public right-of-way within two (2) City blocks of the affected blocks of a special event, which has been approved by the Cedar Rapids City Council, during the scheduled special event hours of operation, unless specifically licensed as part of said special event.

Mobile Food Vending on Private Property

- A. No mobile food vendor shall operate a mobile food vending unit or food stand within or upon private property without a mobile food vendor license pursuant to this Chapter.
- B. Any signage associated with the mobile food vendor shall comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, and regulations. Signage placed on a food cart or on a food truck shall be exempt from total signage area allocated to the parcel so long as the food truck or food cart is operational. Any freestanding signage associated with the mobile food vending operation shall count against the signage area allotted to the parcel.
 - 1. Signage types which are prohibited by Chapter 32 of the Municipal Code shall be prohibited from placement by any mobile food vendor licensee.
- C. Vending on private property without permission of the property owner is trespassing.

For vendors located on private property, a restroom agreement may be required with an adjacent structure to obtain permits through Linn County Public Health.

Mobile Food Vending in City Parks and Golf Courses

- A. No mobile food vendor shall operate within a parking lot directly adjacent to, or with direct access to, a concession stand while said concession stand is in operation.
- B. Mobile food vendors shall be limited to hard-surfaced areas of the park, but this shall not mean within any roadway or parking lot drive aisle.
- C. Mobile food vending shall be limited to the park hours of operation set by the City of Cedar Rapids.
- D. 4. A mobile food vending unit or food stand shall not be located in public right-of-way within two (2) City blocks of the affected area within a City Park holding a special event or other operation as deemed necessary by the City Parks and Recreation Department unless specifically licensed as part of said special event by the permit holder of said special event.

Exemptions from City Mobile Food Vendor License Requirements

When a mobile food vendor is operating on private property a license is not required to be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk if one or more of the following conditions is met:

A. Non-Profit Organizations

- 1. Sales activities by a charitable, educational, or religious organization which is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code when the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the payment of the expenses thereof and the charitable or religious object for which the charitable or religious society exists, provided that such sales are not conducted by such organization in excess of three (3) consecutive days in any seven-day period at the same location.

B. Farm Stands

- 1. In the event unprocessed whole food is being sold or attempted to be sold on the same parcel or group of parcels under common ownership on which said food is grown, and the parcel(s) is assessed as Agricultural Land by the Cedar Rapids City Assessor, a mobile food vendor license is not required.

C. Mobile Food Vending Ancillary to an Existing Primary Use – A mobile food vendor license shall not be required if the mobile food vending is ancillary to an existing primary use on the same parcel if all of the following conditions are met:

- 1. There is a primary land use in a building, which is constructed or which is being constructed, on the parcel in which the mobile food vending unit would be located; and
- 2. Sales of food, associated with the primary structure on the parcel would be allowed, or is lawfully occurring on said parcel, including, but not limited to such uses as restaurants, grocery stores, markets, clubhouses and kitchens; and

3. The parcel has been classified by the Cedar Rapids City Assessor to be exempt, industrial, or commercial; and
 4. The mobile food vendor is the owner of the parcel or owns a business on the parcel where the mobile food vending unit would be located.
- D. Temporary/Seasonal Sales of Unprocessed Whole Food – A mobile food vendor license shall not be required for temporary/seasonal sales of unprocessed whole food if the parcel upon which the mobile food vending unit is located has been classified by the Cedar Rapids City Assessor to be exempt, industrial, or commercial.”

Important Contacts

1. Linn County Public Health – (319) 892-6000
Issues Health Permits and conducts inspections of Mobile Food Vendors. A Linn County Public Health Permit is required prior to issuance of a City Mobile Food Vendor License.
2. City of Cedar Rapids Fire Marshal – (319) 286-5166
Conducts inspections of fire extinguishers and issues permits to use propane (LP) for cooking.
3. City of Cedar Rapids City Clerk Office – (319) 286-5060
Issues the City of Cedar Rapids Mobile Food Vendor License, which is required for all mobile food vendors operating within the City. City Clerk also processes requests to change approved locations of a license if moving to a different numbered parking space.
4. City of Cedar Rapids Zoning Office – (319) 286-5836
Answers questions about allowed uses on parcels of land, including is food preparation allowed and can a mobile vending unit be parked or stored on the property.
5. Park Cedar Rapids – (319) 423-7060
If interested in reserving an on-street parking space for your mobile food vending unit, Park Cedar Rapids will help you to make those arrangements.