



CITY OF TYLER COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Tyler Approves Ordinances To Allow Food Trucks

The Tyler City Council voted this morning to approve two ordinances relating to mobile food vendors (food trucks). The approved changes establish “Food Truck Parks” as a primary use of a property and allow food trucks to operate on private property as transient vendors. The City Council also approved changes that establish a one-year Mobile Food Unit Street Vending pilot program on certain streets within the Midtown District, the Texas College District, the University Woods District, the Downtown, Business, Arts and Culture zoning district (DBAC), adjacent to City parks, and at active construction sites.

The proposals come as part of recommendations from the Food Truck Subcommittee. On June 25, 2013 the Unified Development Code Review Committee formed a ‘Food Truck Subcommittee’ tasked with researching food trucks and food truck parks and proposing any desired amendments for consideration based on best practices. The Subcommittee researched trends and best practices and even travelled to Fort Worth to meet with city officials to discuss what their experiences were with food trucks and to visit two local food truck parks.

“City staff has received many inquiries from citizens regarding the ability to allow for food trucks and food truck parks, prompting staff to review relevant codes and rules. Tyler is also home to over 18,000 college students who are likely to support creative entertainment options such as food truck parks and related activities.” City Planning Director Heather Nick said.

Senior Planner Kyle Kingma was responsible for much of the research involved and stated “The amendments are likely to provide more diversity in food and entertainment options around the city. We looked at best practices throughout Texas and the rest of the country and have incorporated these elements. However, we also made sure that some elements are still unique to Tyler. I expect other cities to look at how we approached this and follow our lead.”

The changes will become effective on December 12, 2014 on which date interested mobile food vendors will be able to apply for the necessary permits under the new rules.

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