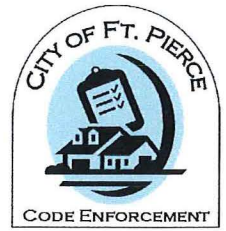




CITY OF FORT PIERCE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE DIVISIONS
MARGARET M. ARRAIZ, CODE COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community



TO: The Honorable Mayor & City Commissioners
THROUGH: Robert Bradshaw, City Manager
FROM: Peggy Arraiz, Code Compliance Manager
RE: Vendor Ordinance Update
DATE: January 29, 2015



Background Summary

- In September 2014, the City Commission adopted the Mobile Vendor Ordinance.
- The Ordinance went into effect October 1, 2014.
- Staff anticipated a large influx of applicants, which would help identify any potential problems or issues with the Ordinance that may need to be amended.
- The Commission requested an evaluation of the ordinance be provided to the Commission at the beginning of 2015.

Permit Activity

- During the month of October, numerous requests for information were made at the City Clerk's office.
- Several packets that included a check-list of required items and necessary documents were handed out.
- No applications were submitted in October or November 2014.
- A single Seasonal Sales permit for Christmas trees was issued in December.
- In January 2015, a single completed application packet was submitted and the first mobile vendor permit was issued. Location – Home Depot.

List of Complaints / Barriers to Entry

- Distance restrictions are the number one complaint my office has received. The Commission has provided a remedy by allowing a waiver of distance request; however, there is a \$250 cost to process such request.
 - Option 1 – make no change.
 - Option 2 – remove or amend the distance restrictions.
 - Option 3 – remove or amend the cost for a waiver of distance request.
- Initial cost is the second most popular complaint my office has received. The fee for the State license \$547 (\$50 application, \$150 plan review, \$347 annual license fee) and is required for all food service carts. The fee for the City license is \$500 (\$100 application, \$150 plan review, \$250 annual license fee). This was discussed in detail by the Commission and was determined to be a reasonable amount for a small business start-up.
 - Option 1 – make no change
 - Option 2 – amend the current fee schedule.

- A few criminal background complaints were received, however, I spoke with each individual and based upon the information provided believe that they would all have been approved. I shared that opinion with the complainants and encouraged them to complete and submit an application. Staff does not recommend making any changes to the current provision.
- Requirement to remove the unit daily was another complaint our office received. Staff does not recommend making any changes to the current provision.

Current Evaluation

- The City Commission adopted an ordinance that provides opportunities for small businesses to operate without placing an undue burden on existing bricks and mortar operations. The requirements, fees and guidelines were established with enough constraints so that only those individuals with a sincere wish to establish a startup business would undertake the task, but not overly restrictive as to completely prohibit such businesses.
- Staff intends to bring an amended ordinance back to the City Commission to address a few errors and omissions or minor wording changes. Example – request was made by the Planning Department to change “Variance Request” to “Waiver of Distance”. If the Commission wishes to amend any of the issues addressed above, they will be incorporated in the newly amended ordinance.