



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CONTACT

Mayor's Press Office

(312) 744-3334

press@cityofchicago.org

BACP - Mika Stambaugh

(312) 744-5365

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO STREAMLINE LICENSE AND PERMIT PROCESS
FOR SEASONAL, SPECIAL EVENTS**

Ordinance Provides Cost-Effective and Flexible Tiered Pricing

Today, City Council approved the Special Event Food and Itinerant Merchant license to allow seasonal, outdoor food vendors that operate at multiple special events or neighborhood festivals to purchase a business permit for longer periods of time, coinciding with the outdoor special event season.

“Chicago offers a wealth of outdoor festivals, special events and gatherings that naturally create business opportunities for small businesses, but our licensing process doesn’t reflect the current landscape of such events,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This ordinance will allow small businesses that operate at multiple events to get longer term permits so that they do not have to constantly get re-permitted during a single season.”

Now small businesses can capitalize on the cost-effective and flexible tiered pricing by participating in several events at a more affordable price. Food vendors may choose from a 5-day, 10-day, 180-day or 1-year permit term as opposed to the current term of 10-days with a fee of \$125. Also, only one application and menu review is required, which minimizes processing and multiple or redundant reviews, eliminating the need to submit an application and menu for each special event.

“I am excited to see food vendors take advantage of this so they can be a part of multiple events at one set price, especially since we are hosting weekly and monthly food truck fests,” said Maria Guerra Lapacek, Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP). “These savings add up for small business owners and these cost saving initiatives really help businesses bottom line.”

Proposed food vendor options:

- 5-day single special event food license \$75
- 10-day single special event food license \$125
- 180-day multiple special events food license \$250
- 1-year multiple special events food license \$500

The ordinance also provides a tiered term and structure to itinerant merchants that conduct general non-food, retail sales or provide non-regulated services, on a temporary basis (less than a year).

A participating merchant may chose the following terms and participate in as many events as possible with-in a desired time period:

- For a 14-day license \$25
- For a 30-day license \$50
- For a 90-day license \$150

More information about business licenses can be found on the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection website at www.cityofchicago.org/BACP.

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