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MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO STREAMLINE PROCESS FOR VENDORS TO OBTAIN SEASONAL, SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS AND LICENSES

Ordinance Would Cut Red Tape for Small Business Owners

Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced an ordinance today to City Council that would amend the Special Event Food permit 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.”

The proposed ordinance provides cost-effective flexibility by offering a choice of several options. Food vendors may choose from a 5-day, 10-day, 30-day or 1-year permit term as opposed to the current term of 10-days with a fee of \$125. The suggested new terms require only one application and menu review, which minimizes processing and multiple or redundant reviews, eliminating the need to submit an application and menu for each special event.

“Food vendors will no longer be restricted to specific sites, dates and events. In fact, food vendors will be able to participate in multiple events and festivals under one license and one menu,” said Maria Guerra Lapacek, Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP). “The proposed new tier scheme allows businesses to participate at events based on time frames they choose.”

Proposed food vendor options:

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| ○ 5-day single special event food license | \$75 |
| ○ 10-day single special event food license | \$125 |
| ○ 30-day multiple special events food license | \$250 |
| ○ 1-year multiple special events food license | \$500 |

The proposed 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:

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|------------------------|-------|
| ○ 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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