

Street Vending

COUNCIL ACTION REVIEW

JUNE 9, 2025

Street Vending

Council Priority Alignment

- ▶ Great Neighborhoods and Safe Communities

Tonight's Purpose

- ▶ Review existing street vending ordinances
- ▶ Benchmarking results
- ▶ Community feedback & examples
- ▶ Housing, Safety, and Community Committee votes
- ▶ Next steps

Existing Street Vending Ordinances

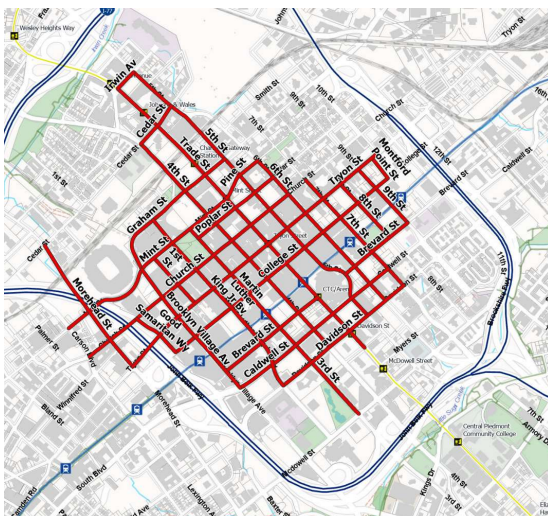
Ordinances

- ▶ Street vending is governed by **Chapter VI** of the City's Code of Ordinances
 - Article VIII – Peddlers
 - Article X – Tryon Street Mall Vendors
- ▶ This Chapter (most recently updated in mid-1980s) governs geographic-related requirements, allowed hours of operation, and licensing, etc.
- ▶ Violations of these ordinances can result in fines up to \$50

Geographic Summary

- ▶ **City wide:** street vending is legal without a permit in all areas outside the Congested Business District
- ▶ **Congested Business District:** street vending is illegal, except for Tryon Street Mall Vendors
- ▶ **Tryon Street Mall:** street vending is legal, but requires a permit (program is administered by Charlotte Center City Partners); footprint is from Brooklyn Village Ave to Eighth Street and the “100 blocks” of East/West Trade Street

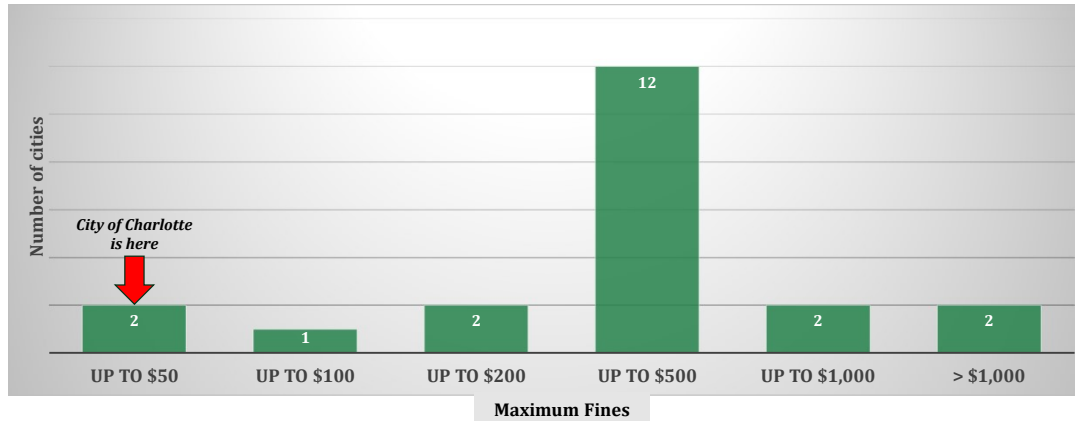
Congested Business District (CBD)



CBD Overview

- ▶ The CBD is established in the ordinance (Article VIII)
- ▶ The most recent expansion to the CBD was in 2016
- ▶ The ordinance grants the City Manager authority to amend the CBD (either expand or reduce)
- ▶ The ordinance does not establish criteria to inform CBD expansion/reduction decisions
- ▶ The Tryon Street Mall Vendor program is governed by a separate ordinance (Article X), enabling permitted vendors to legally operate in assigned locations

National Benchmarking of Maximum Fines



- ▶ 21 cities (including Charlotte) reflected in the chart above
- ▶ 19 cities have higher maximum fines than Charlotte, with \$500 being the most common maximum fine threshold for the benchmark group

Summary of May 22nd Public Input Session

Public Input Session Description

- ▶ 35 participants, including small businesses, residents, and street vendors (primarily from Uptown, South End, and NoDa)
- ▶ Two-hour session, with table discussions and report-outs

Key Observations

▶ Tryon Street Vendor Program

- Permitted vendors expressed concerns with illegal vending, including:
 - Lack of strong, consistent enforcement
 - Adverse business impacts and loss of family-friendly environment
 - Potential public health and safety issues

Frequent ordinance violations, with limited enforcement tools

▶ Congested Business District

- Specific areas – such as Spectrum Center – experience persistent illegal vending

▶ NoDa

- Brick-and-mortar small businesses expressed a range of concerns, including:
 - Personal safety
 - Adverse business impacts and loss of family-friendly environment
 - Sidewalk and street obstructions
 - Lack of oversight (e.g., health & sanitation concerns related to food and drink sales)
- Street vendors stated they attract people to the area and are part of NoDa's culture; also assert that many seek to successfully co-exist

Longstanding, deep-seated tensions between brick-and-mortar businesses and street vendors

Common Examples



CATS Bus Stop



Common Examples



HSC Committee Vote

Staff to develop an escalating fine structure up to \$500, including tracking (of violations)

► Staff analysis update

- CMPD does not (at this time) have a technology solution to track civil citation offenses at the individual level, which would be necessary for an escalating fine structure
- Rather than an escalating fine structure, Council could establish a fine “not to exceed \$500 per violation” (this approach would be similar to other cities included in the benchmark group)

► Implementation approach

- Education campaign prior to effective date of increased fine (CCCP can assist in Uptown)
- CMPD will continue to have a range of compliance tools: education to achieve voluntary compliance; verbal warning(s); fines

► If Council chooses to take action on the new fine structure on June 23rd, implementation could occur by in mid-July

HSC Committee Vote

Develop a pilot program to be implemented as soon as possible and direct staff to provide an update on the development pilot program to full council before the summer recess.

► Staff identified 4 potential sites in NoDa that could be designated for a permit-based street vending pilot program. We are assessing:

- Resources
- Application process
- Pilot combined with temporary Congested Business District designation for up to six months
- Coordination with community resources and partners for impacted vendors

► Pilot program timing options

- If Council seeks to authorize a NoDa pilot program prior to summer, an ordinance revision would be necessary at the June 23rd Council meeting, with the pilot commencing in the July-August timeframe
- If Council requires additional information before authorizing a NoDa pilot program, staff will be prepared to discuss this topic in August, with the pilot program commencing in the September-October timeframe

Feedback and Questions