

Street Vending

COUNCIL ACTION REVIEW

APRIL 13TH, 2026

Existing Street Vending Ordinances

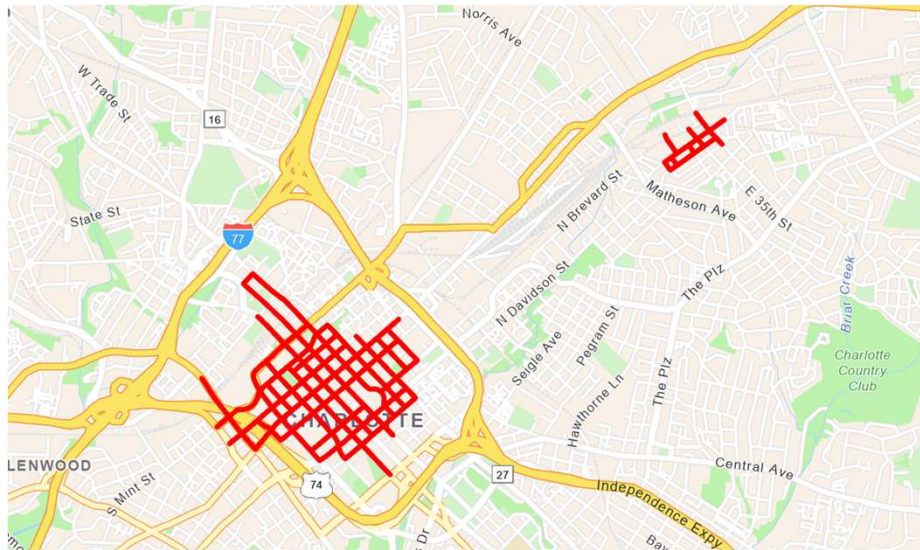
Ordinances

- ▶ Street vending is governed by **Chapter VI** of the City's Code of Ordinances
 - Article VIII – Peddlers
 - Article X – Tryon Street Mall Vendors
- ▶ Violations of these ordinances can result in civil fines up to \$500

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
 - CBD was expanded by Council to include streets in NoDa.
- ▶ **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

Existing Congested Business District



Street Vending Policy Timeline

- ▶ **April 28th, 2025:** policy referral by Mayor Lyles
- ▶ **June 2nd, 2025:** HSC Committee approves two policy recommendations
 - Expansion of the Congested Business District designation to include streets in NoDa and increase fines for illegal vending to \$500.
 - Creation of a NoDa Vendor Pilot program for a period of 6 months
- ▶ **June 23rd, 2025:** Council approves committee recommendations
- ▶ **September 1st, 2025:** Permitted vendors begin selling in NoDa
- ▶ **January 5th, 2026:** Safety Committee approves sunsetting the NoDa Vendor pilot program
- ▶ **February 15th, 2026:** NoDa Vendors Market pilot ends
- ▶ **March 5th, 2026:** Safety Committee approves two policy recommendations for Council consideration
 - Extend street vending regulation citywide
 - Create a criminal (Class III misdemeanor) enforcement option for CMPD

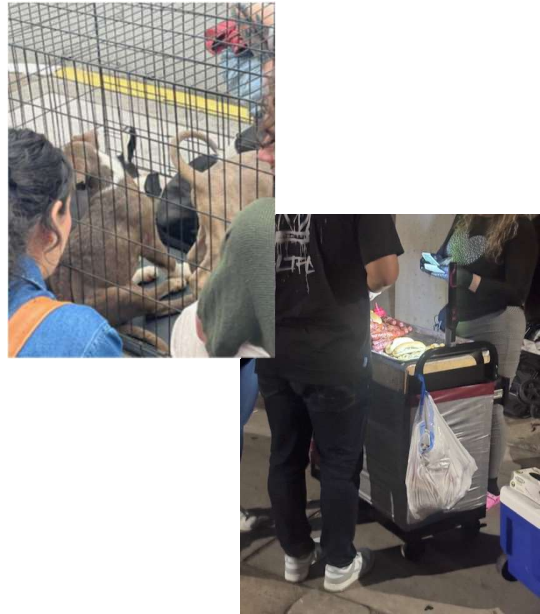
Community Feedback

► Public Input Sessions

- May 22nd, 2025
- February 17th, 2026

► Numerous emails, calls, and staff interactions with vendors, residents, and businesses

- Unlicensed food sales
- Inconsistent results from increased fines
- Challenges with permitting/compliance during the NoDa pilot program
- Concerns from adjacent communities during the NoDa pilot



Street Vendor Benchmarking

	Austin	Nashville	San Diego	Denver	Portland	Atlanta
City-wide street vendor regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Criminal penalty option	Yes	No*	No*	No	Yes	Yes

► Common Elements

- Restricted locations due to insufficient ROW widths and/or high pedestrian areas
- Minimum sidewalk widths where activity is permitted
- Prohibitions on proximity to businesses, driveways, and other vendors
- Size restrictions on displays
- Authority to remove and impound vendor materials
- Valid business licenses,
- Some municipalities require insurance and photo identification for vendors

** Nashville and San Diego do not have a criminal penalty option but do expressly mention that unlicensed vendors will have their items removed from the ROW.*

Safety Committee Vote

Extend street vending regulation beyond the existing Congested Business District citywide.

► Staff analysis

- City-wide regulation of street vending is consistent with the results of our benchmarking review
- Street vending regulation is in the interest of public safety and public health
- Street vending regulation helps to ensure a fair playing field for highly regulated brick-and-mortar small businesses
- Maintain exceptions (i.e., allow street vending) for city authorized programs administered by non-profit partners that manage Municipal Service Districts
- Continue to allow vending during festivals and other events as currently codified

Safety Committee Vote

Establish a criminal penalty option (Class III misdemeanor) for illegal street vending

► Staff Analysis

- A stronger enforcement tool – particularly for repeat offenders – would be a more effective deterrent
- Misdemeanor classification allows for the tracking of repeat offenders and provides CMPD a path to resolve recurring issues beyond issuing citations
- Officers have wide discretion on when to escalate misdemeanor situations to an actual arrest.

► Implementation approach

- Work with the City Attorney's Office to ensure adherence to state statutory considerations
- CMPD reliance on progressive enforcement tools
 - Voluntary compliance, verbal warning, civil citation, criminal penalty
 - Based on circumstances of the offense

Next Steps

- ▶ **Based on Council feedback this evening, as desired staff can draft ordinance modification(s) for future Council vote**