

Street Vending

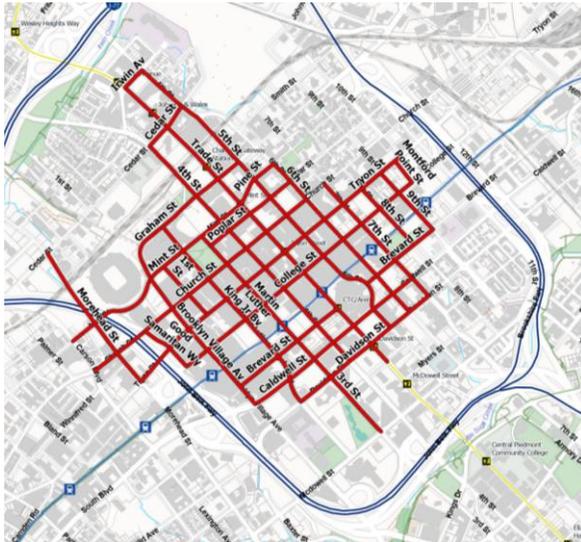
SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

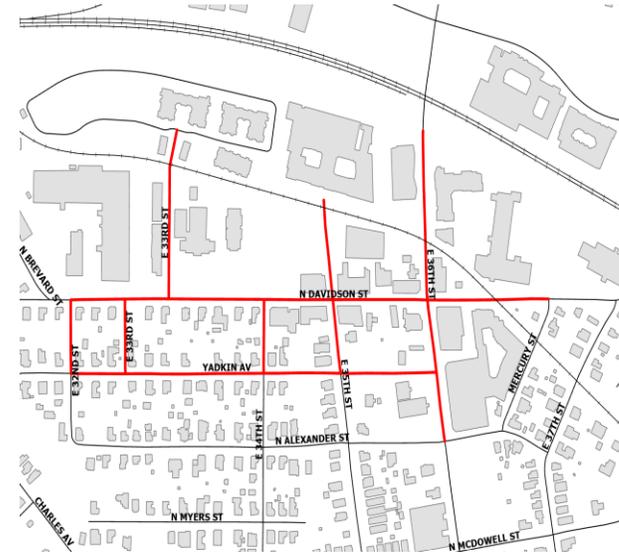
CLT Street Vending Regulation as of 2.16.26

- ▶ Street vending is illegal in Congested Business District (see maps of Uptown and NoDa), with one exception (Tryon Street Vendor program, administered by Charlotte Center City Partners)
- ▶ Street vending outside of the Congested Business District is not regulated by CLT ordinances

Uptown



NoDa



- ▶ Illegal street vending within the Congested Business District can result in a civil citation of \$500. (CLT ordinances do not currently include a criminal penalty option for street vending violations)

Policy Consideration #1

- ▶ **Policy question: Should street vending regulation extend beyond the existing Congested Business District?**

- ▶ **Preliminary staff recommendation**
 - Citywide expansion of street vending regulation in the public ROW
 - 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

- ▶ **Staff rationale**
 - 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
 - Allowing vending exceptions within MSDs is a logical way to allow for permitted street vending programming in high density areas

Policy Consideration #2

- ▶ **Policy question: Should illegal street vending have a criminal (Class III misdemeanor) enforcement option?**
- ▶ **Preliminary staff recommendation**
 - Establish a criminal penalty enforcement option (working with City Attorney's Office to ensure adherence to state statutory considerations)
- ▶ **Staff rationale**
 - 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

Street Vendors: Benchmarking

Leading up to Council's June 2025 policy actions, staff analyzed the street vendor policies across approximately two-dozen large cities across the nation (including five in North Carolina), observing the following insights:

General Street Vending Restrictions

- ▶ Compared to Charlotte, a vast majority of cities included in the analysis have more stringent, city-wide street vending restrictions,
- ▶ Whereas Charlotte allows street vending in most areas other than the Congested Business District, the comparison cities generally allow vending only in certain designation locations

Illegal Street Vending Fines

- ▶ Fines of up to \$500 (for a first offense) appear common
- ▶ Some cities have a criminal penalty option

Street Vendors: NC-Specific Benchmarking

	Raleigh	G-boro	Durham	Asheville	W-Salem
City-wide street vendor regulation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of permitted vendors	~36	Unk	Unk	~37	Unk
Criminal penalty option	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Next Steps

- ▶ **Host public input session in February (invite vendors, small business owners and residents)**
- ▶ **Continue benchmarking against other large North Carolina cities**
- ▶ **Gather additional City of Charlotte data – as available – regarding calls for service and citations**
- ▶ **Target March 2, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting for final discussion and Committee action (if any)**