

# Street Vending

COUNCIL ACTION REVIEW  
JUNE 23, 2025

## Street Vending Policy Referral

### Background

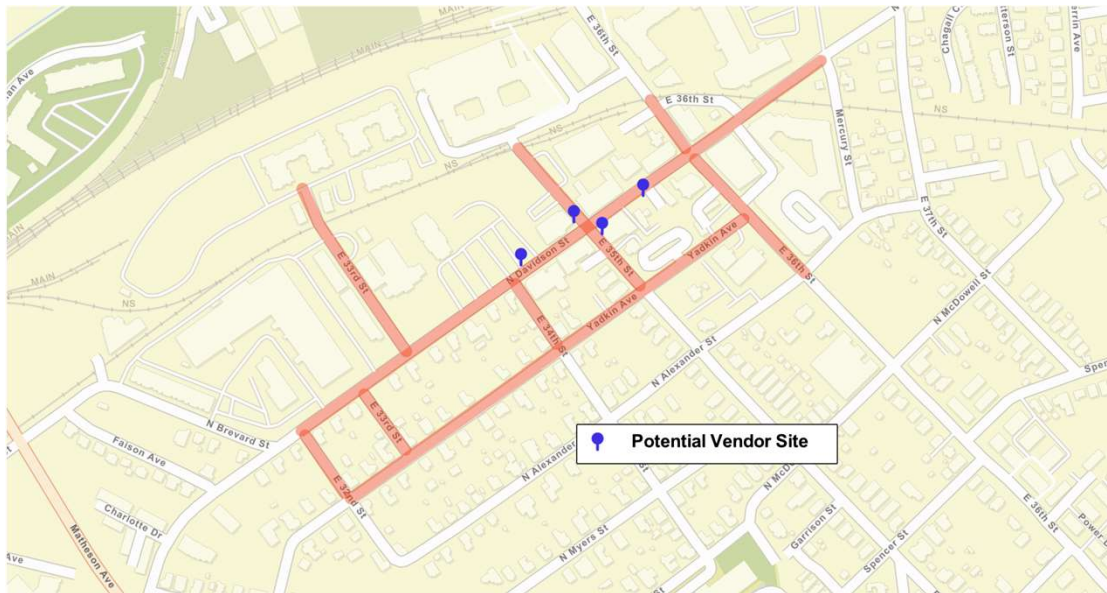
- ▶ **April 28<sup>th</sup>**: policy referral by Mayor Lyles
- ▶ **May 5<sup>th</sup>**: initial discussion with Housing, Safety & Community (HSC) Committee
- ▶ **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**: public input session
- ▶ **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**: HSC Committee unanimously approves two policy recommendations
- ▶ **June 9<sup>th</sup>**: Council Action Review discussion

## Tonight's Requested Policy Actions

- 1. Ordinance amendments to increase fines – associated with street vending-related violations – to a civil fine/penalty not to exceed \$500**
  - Currently, fines are only \$10 - \$50, depending on location of violation
- 2. Ordinance amendment to add certain streets in NoDa to the Congested Business District, to enable a city-administered permitted vendor pilot program in NoDa for a period not to exceed six months in duration**
  - Refer to next slide for a NoDa map depicting the footprint of the pilot program

*Note: both requested policy actions above were approved by the HSC Committee on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and discussed with City Council on June 9<sup>th</sup>*



## NoDa Street Market



## NoDa Street Market Implementation Update

1. Targeting end of July for launch of the pilot program
2. Allowable merchandise under the pilot program will include items such as clothing, jewelry, art, etc.
3. Currently designing the application process and rotation model
4. On-street education will occur prior to activation of the pilot
5. Focused enforcement will occur in the early stages of pilot
6. Technical assistance / business counseling support will be made available to any existing NoDa vendors impacted by the pilot
7. Permit cost will be less than \$100

## Permit Concept

<b>NoDa Market Vendor</b>		
	<i>Permit #</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>NDM 55512</b></div>	
<b>Vending Location</b>		
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-size: 40px; font-weight: bold;">2</div>	
Permit Must Be Displayed Non-Transferable		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>Valid</i>  01/01/1990  to  06/01/1991 </div>		

# Appendix

## Existing Street Vending Ordinances

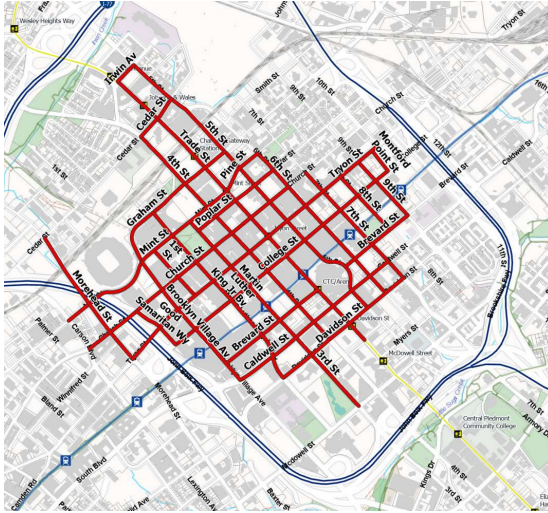
### Ordinances

- ▶ 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

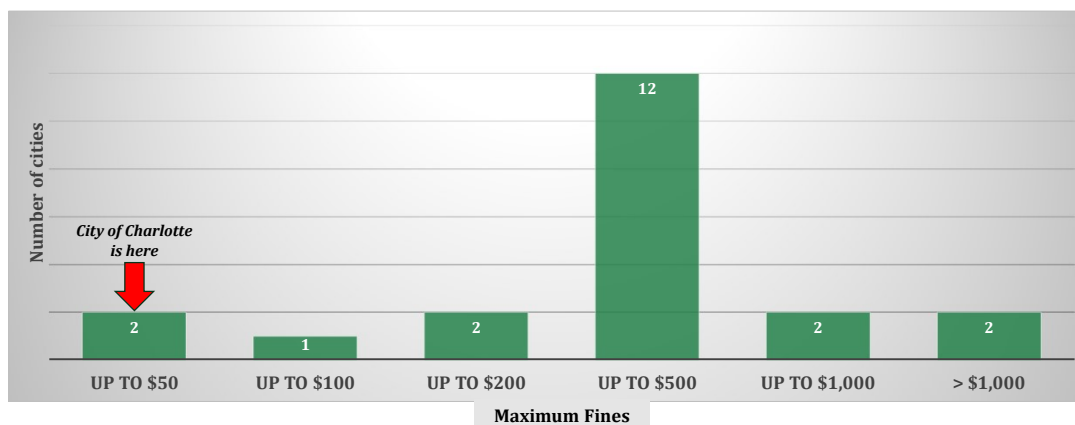
## Congested Business District (CBD)



### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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*

### ▶ Congested Business District

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

*Frequent ordinance violations, with limited enforcement tools*

### ▶ 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





## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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