



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: May 22, 2018

TO: Eric R. DeLong, Interim City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

LIAISON: Eric R. DeLong, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jessica Wood, Director of Municipal Affairs
Department of Law

SUBJECT: **Resolution to Extend PILOT Mobile Food Truck Ordinance**

The City Commission in August 2016 adopted a PILOT Mobile Food Truck Ordinance after extensive engagement of and collaboration between food truck operators, local businesses and City staff.

The ordinance, which took effect in September 2016, for the first time permitted food trucks in select public spaces, prioritized the protection of public safety, streamlined business licensing and clearly defined vendor responsibilities.

The PILOT ordinance also established a 2-year evaluation period and called for regulatory performance reports to City Commission after Year 1 and Year 2.

City Staff and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. in March 2018 delivered the Year 1 performance report to City Commission. Key results included more licensed food trucks doing more business in the City, more active public spaces as more food options attract more people to the public realm, zero public safety incidents and less than a dozen complaints.

The number of new “bricks and mortar” restaurant openings also far outpaced the number of closings, dispelling the myth that mobile food businesses present a risk to more permanent businesses.

Put simply, the ordinance appears to be emerging as an effective regulatory tool to manage mobile food truck businesses in the public right of way.

The challenge is that the PILOT ordinance is set to expire in September 2018, a less than ideal time for business owners as it comes in the midst of what is typically an active time of year for food truck operators.

City and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. staff recommend extending the effective period of the ordinance until January 31, 2019. This prevents the expiration of the ordinance at a crucial time for business owners.

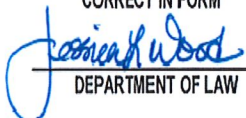
The recommended action also aligns the conclusion of the PILOT's effective period with the planned presentation of the Year 2 performance report in early 2019, at which time the City Commission may determine to suspend, modify or expand the ordinance, per the original intent of the PILOT ordinance.

YOUR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends adoption of the following resolution providing for the publication of a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 74 of Title VI of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids.

RESOLVED:

1. That the attached ordinance amending Chapter 74, Pilot Mobile Food Business Ordinance, of Title VI, Food and Health, of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids shall be published as part of the proceedings; and
2. That the proposed ordinance shall be considered for adoption at a subsequent City Commission meeting; and
3. That in accordance with Title V, Section 10(a) of the Grand Rapids City Charter, the attached ordinance shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the City of Grand Rapids.

Prepared by Tonya Voakes and Jessica L. Wood

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 74 "PILOT Mobile Food Business Ordinance"
OF TITLE VI "FOOD AND HEALTH"
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-__

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS DO ORDAIN:

Section 1. That Sec. 6.111 of Chapter 74 of Title VI, Food and Health, of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

"Chapter 74 – PILOT Mobile Food Business Ordinance

Sec. 6.111. – PILOT Evaluation Period.

This PILOT policy framework is intended to demonstrate a new approach to managing Mobile Food Businesses on publicly owned property. To gauge the effectiveness of the approach, a diverse body of City staff and key stakeholders shall develop an assessment tool, gather relevant data and information to support an informed evaluation, outline lessons learned and provide a report of findings and recommendations to City Commission in January 2018 and January 2019. The City Commission may determine to suspend, modify or expand the approach at any time. Absent any extension, this PILOT ordinance shall remain in effect until January 31, 2019."

Attachment: Ordinance change for 5-22-18 (Resolution to Extend PILOT Mobile Food Truck Ordinance)