

City of Takoma Park

Revisions to Chapter 8.12 “Food Trucks”



Council Position

Council recognizes the importance of small, local businesses in the Takoma Park economy. The City's economic development efforts include nurturing and supporting small businesses. Food trucks provide an entry point for entrepreneurs to operate in the local market with lower start-up and operating costs and add vibrancy to street life.



Current Challenge

City Code restricts the ability of food trucks to operate easily in Takoma Park. Staff proposes recommendations to facilitate food truck commerce.



Background

- Pilot launched in July 2012
 - Waived current Code from Chapter 8.12 for “transient merchants”
 - Permitting fees
 - Criminal background check
 - 15 minute rule
 - Hours of operation
 - Established designated vendor location at Takoma Junction



Staff proposal

Four classifications:

1. City-owned land
2. Private property
3. Special events
4. Roaming (i.e. ice cream trucks)



Location: City-owned land

Recommendation:

- ✓ Preapprove zones on city-owned land (e.g. Takoma Junction)
 - ✓ Parking lots
 - ✓ Community centers



Location: Private Property

Recommendation:

- ✓ Allow private property owners to apply for permits in lieu of vendors.
- ✓ Establish a formula for the number of trucks in each location based on space availability.



Fees

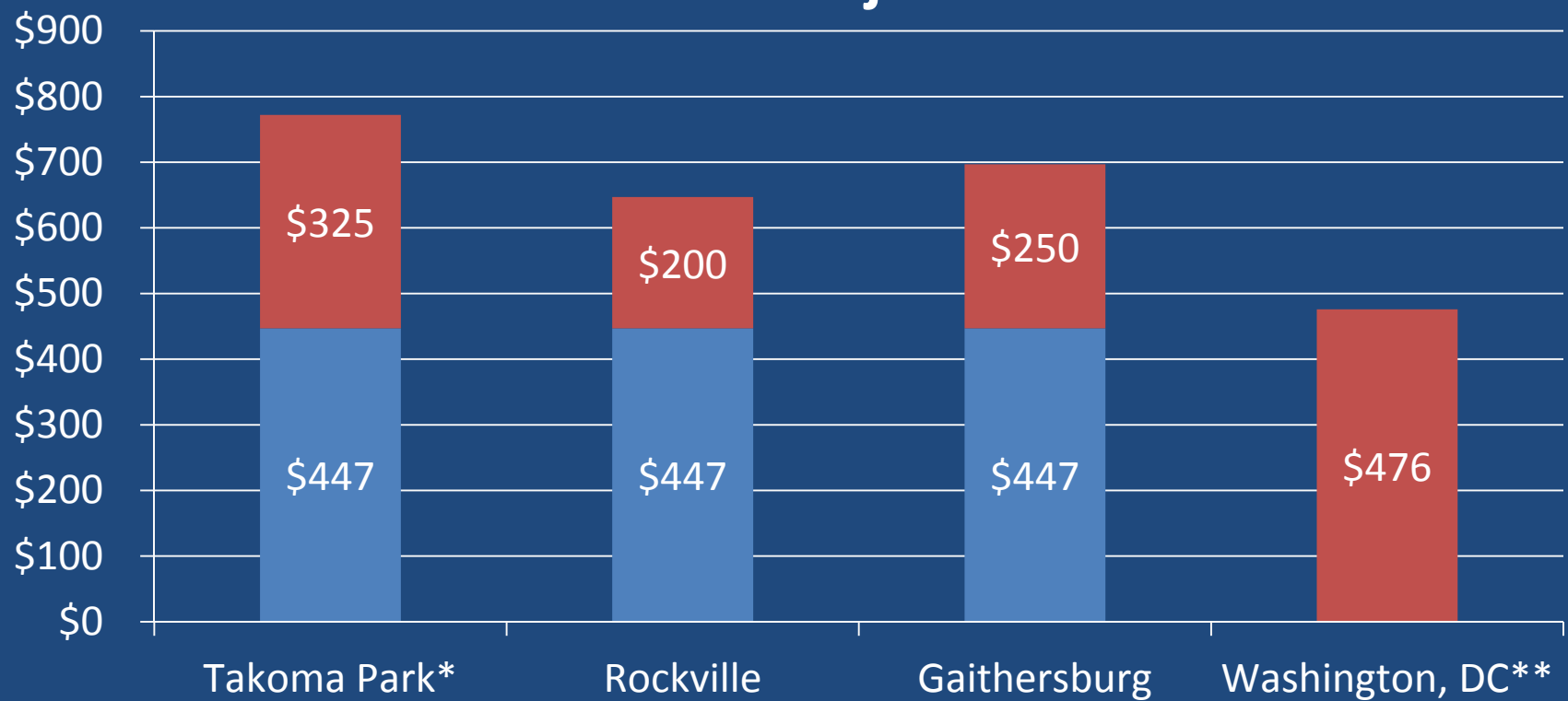
Recommendations:

- ✓ \$250 annual for vendor or property owner (per truck)
- ✓ \$150 6 months
- ✓ \$50 one-time/ special events



Fees

Vendor fees in local jurisdictions



*Includes \$25 application fee.

**Two year license.

Liability insurance

Recommendations:

- ✓ Require that vendors selling on City-owned land or in right-of-way carry liability insurance and name City as insured.
- ✓ Require that private property owners applying for permit carry liability insurance.



Criminal Background Check

Recommendation:

- ✓ Remove criminal background check requirement.



Trash

Recommendations:

- ✓ Require vendors and property owners to appropriately dispose of trash.
- ✓ Establish a zero-impact policy for packaging.



Coordination

Recommendation:

- ✓ Establish an online system for reserving space on City owned land.



Other considerations

- Establish a sunset clause after 1 year; Council would review and modify Code as needed before it expires.



Next steps

- Provide comment on staff recommendations.
- Review language in Code for additional changes.

