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DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE

REVENUE DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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August 8, 2002

Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Review of Sacramento City Code Related to Mobile Food Vendor Permits and Operations

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee direct City Revenue Division staff to conduct a review of current city code related to Mobile Food Vendor permits and operations, and to bring back to the Committee any identified improvements or changes to the city code that will improve and enhance the City permit process and the regulation of the operation of motorized mobile food vendors for the public and local motorized mobile food vendor industry.

CONTACT PERSON: Bill Spencer, Operations & Program Analyst, Revenue Division,
264-7827

FOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF: August 20, 2002

SUMMARY: Given the recent comments, concerns and complaints received by the Revenue Division, Code Enforcement, Neighborhood Services and Council Office various mobile food vendor permit, regulation and operating issues need to be reviewed and addressed. The review of the current city code would include identifying the issues, gathering input from stakeholders who are affected by the motorized mobile food vendor industry, and research and review the ordinances and processes of other municipalities to identify improvements to the Sacramento City Code.

BACKGROUND: Over the last year, the Revenue Division as well as other City departments, have received inquiries, complaints and comments from various persons concerning the operation of motorized mobile food vendors within the City of Sacramento. The Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance regulates the operation of both mobile food coaches (also referred to as lunch wagons and catering trucks) and ice cream trucks. There are currently 57 mobile food coaches and 30 ice cream trucks with permits, and 87 driver/operators with permits.

Specific concerns reported or observed by city staff include the operation of non-permitted mobile food vehicles, non-permitted operators, mobile food vehicles operating during prohibited hours, noise complaints about the music from ice cream trucks, mobile food vehicles operating beyond allowed time limits, and mobile food operators negatively impacting local businesses and food establishments.

Additionally, some mobile food vendors have expressed their desire for expanding allowable hours of operation, and expanding time limits while vending on public right-of-ways. The need to provide enhanced enforcement and compliance of motorized mobile food vendors has become more evident.

The Revenue Division proposes to solicit input from various stakeholders and interested parties in order to address the issues and concerns of the industry and community. The identified stakeholders include:

1. Motorized mobile food vendor industry: permitted mobile food vehicle owners, permitted operators, and commissary operators;
2. Business community, particularly in areas where complaints have been more concentrated;
3. Neighborhood groups and associations, particularly in areas where complaints have been more concentrated; and,
4. Other City departments: Code Enforcement, Police Department, Neighborhood Services, On-street Parking and Planning.

Staff would research ordinances and operations from other cities and counties, and together with the input gathered, identify options available to the City for improvements to the regulation of motorized mobile food vendors, and the permit and compliance process. Staff would identify available options, including a recommendation for the best option to the Law and Legislation Committee after receiving feedback from the stakeholders on the recommended options. The review process would begin immediately with meetings with stakeholders and review of other cities' ordinances. It is currently

planned that staff would bring back to the Law and Legislation Committee a recommendation in early 2003.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: A review of the current Sacramento City Code would not require any additional funding or have any fiscal impact to the current General Fund budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The proposed recommendation does not involve an activity which would be covered by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS: There are no ESBD considerations as no goods or services are being purchased at this time.

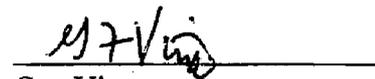
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: Motorized mobile food vendors that operate within the City of Sacramento are utilized by the citizens and workers of Sacramento. Motorized mobile food vending impacts citizens and workers, residential neighborhoods, and commercial and industrial areas. Establishing city code which addresses contemporary needs and concerns, that includes reasonable regulations and requirements for operation of mobile food vehicles and enhanced compliance enforcement, would contribute to making Sacramento the city of choice to live, learn, work and play.

Respectfully submitted:



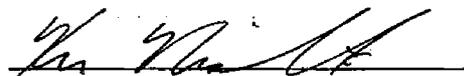
Bill Spencer
Operations & Program Analyst
Revenue Division

APPROVED:



Gus Vina
Director of Finance

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



Ken Nishimoto
Deputy City Manager