

Rapid Racial Equity Impact Analysis

PURPOSE OF THIS TOOL

To facilitate consideration of racial equity, this tool should be used to examine how BIPOC communities will be affected, both short-term and long-term, by a proposed action or decision of the City.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Consider questions before a decision is made.
- Include staff with a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and skills at the decision-making table. Identify groups and individuals most likely to be impacted. If possible, involve them in the decision-making process.
- For resources and support in completing this analysis, visit the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging REIA SharePoint site:
<https://portal.bloomingtonmn.gov/reat/REIA/SitePages/Home.aspx>

SUBJECT:

An Ordinance Modifying the Permitted Operating Hours of Mobile Food Units Located Within 250 ft of Residentially Zoned and Used Properties

WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS:

Mallory Rickbeil, Planner

1. WHAT ARE THE RACIAL EQUITY IMPACTS OF THIS DECISION?

The equity impacts of this decision may impact BIPOC residents, business owners, and employees by allowing greater avenues for prepared food operations to find a marketable audience and develop their brands within the City. The dominant food system disproportionately relies on BIPOC persons to perform the most technical, physically taxing, and injurious food processing tasks- often without a pathway towards equitable business ownership. Modifying the permitted operating hours of mobile food units within 250 feet of residentially zoned and used properties represents a small but necessary change that gives more flexibility to local businesses to build their enterprises at a time when a new generation of entrepreneurs and consumers are ready to embrace diversity and equity in the local foods and small business communities

2. WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM AND/OR BE BURDENED BY THIS DECISION?

Mobile food unit owners and their employees would benefit from increased hours with which they may operate near residential zones. Residents living nearby may benefit from an increased number and variety of local food products to access, or even from an emergent 'third place' within their neighborhood.

It is plausible that residents who live nearby may be impacted by the potential for more congestion or noise around the mobile food unit's operating space. Informed by the feedback from Environmental Health Division who report zero complaints from residential areas related to Mobile Food Unit activity, Staff believes that the measures (provided below) would mitigate any undue impacts while providing flexibility for upstarting local businesses at a critical time when there is growing demand for such services.

3. ARE THERE STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE ANY UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DECISION?

There are Use Standards already in place for Mobile Food Units in Section 21.302.18 of the City Code. Such measures set standards for storage of Mobile Food Units when not in operation, distance requirements from brick-and-mortar restaurants, standards which require trash and recycling receptacles, no amplification of sounds, no noisemakers or flashing lights permitted, no signage unless affixed to the vehicle. These Standards, when paired with the conditions related to when the modified hours would be allowed (i.e., an intersecting arterial or collector roadway or a non-residential building between the food truck and residential zoned areas), are likely to mitigate any unintended sounds or visual impacts to the surrounding areas. Planning staff will continue to collaborate with Environmental Health Division staff to track and evaluate unintended consequences of the decisions should they arise.