

Proposed Changes to Mobile Food Unit Ordinances

*Housing, Sustainable Growth and
Development Committee*

September 18, 2012

Mobile Food Units

Goals:

- Provide alternatives to consumers
- Support existing micro and small food service businesses
- Make Houston a food destination, supporting all types of unique food service establishments
- Ensure public health and safety



Mobile Food Units

The Approach:

- Review existing Mobile Food Unit laws with steering committee
- Keep in place reasonable existing laws:
 - Check in with a commissary everyday after service
 - Require written permission from a private property owner to provide food services
- Provide updates to existing regulations
- Propose reasonable changes to the ordinances guiding Mobile Food Units to ensure thriving restaurant and food truck industries



Mobile Food Units

2011 Stakeholder Committee Representatives from:

- Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Houston Fire Department (HFD)
- Mayors Office of Special Events (MOSE)
- Mayors Office of Sustainability
- Food truck community
- Greater Houston Restaurant Association (GHRA)
- Houston Downtown Management District
- Urban Harvest



Downtown

CURRENT: Two District of Limitations (DOLs) exist in Houston (No propane allowed)

- Downtown
- Medical Center

Proposed Change:

- Maximum amount of propane allowed in Downtown will be 40 lbs
- This will allow food trucks Downtown on private property only, with written permission from property owner (similar to current practice city-wide)



Citywide

CURRENT:

- Must be 60 feet between trucks

Proposed Change:

- No minimum feet requirement between trucks
- However, when there are four or more propane trucks within 60 feet of each other, a standby fire operator is required



Citywide

CURRENT:

- Mobile Food Units cannot be within 100 feet of existing outdoor tables and chairs

Proposed Change:

- No minimum feet restriction in proximity to existing outdoor tables and chairs



Citywide

CURRENT:

- Mobile Food Units are not allowed to provide any dining furniture in front of truck during service

Proposed Change:

- Mobile Food Units may provide up to 3 tables and 6 chairs for seating in front of truck during service
- Chairs and tables must be removed when service ends

