



CITY OF MELROSE
City Council
March 16, 2026

An Order 2026-632

Ordinance Number

Ordinance Name ~~Food Truck~~ *Mobile Food Vendor*

BE IT ORDERED

Be it ordered that the City Council Amend the language of the Mobile Food Vendor Article III of Chapter 127 of City of Melrose Ordinance remove the requirement of public hearing prior to license issuance.

STATUS:

New

RESULT: Referred out to Legal and Legislative

AYES: None

ABSENT: Ryan Williams

In the City Council
Ordained Roll Call
(Unanimous)

Passed

Tanji Joy Cifuni, City Clerk

A True Copy Attest

Tanji Cifuni
Tanji Cifuni
City Clerk

William Bradley Freeman

William Bradley Freeman, President
City Council

April 14, 2026
Date

Jennifer Grigoraitis

Jennifer Grigoraitis, Mayor

4/14/26
Date



CITY OF MELROSE
Legal and Legislative
March 23, 2026

An Order 2026-632

Ordinance Number here

Ordinance Name ~~Food Truck~~ *Mobile Food Vendor*

BE IT ORDERED Amend the language of the Mobile Food Vendor Article III of Chapter 127 of City of Melrose Ordinance remove the requirement of public hearing prior to license issuance.

STATUS:

New

RESULT: **ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS] (4 TO 0)**

AYES: Maya Jamaledine, Bradley Freeman, Elizabeth Kowal, Kim Vandiver

ABSENT: Manjula Karamcheti, Cal Finocchiaro

In the City Council
Ordained Roll Call
(Unanimous)

Passed

A True Copy Attest

Tanji Cifuni
Tanji Cifuni
City Clerk

Tanji Joy Cifuni, City Clerk

William Bradley Freeman

William Bradley Freeman, President
City Council

April 14, 2026
Date

Jennifer Grigoraitis

Jennifer Grigoraitis, Mayor

4/14/26
Date



CITY OF MELROSE
City Council
April 6, 2026

An Order 2026-632

Ordinance Number here

Ordinance Name Mobile Food Vendor

BE IT ORDERED Amend the language of the Mobile Food Vendor Article III of Chapter 127 of City of Melrose Ordinance remove the requirement of public hearing prior to license issuance.

STATUS:

New

RESULT:

ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS] (10 TO 0)

AYES:

Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaledine,
Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul,
Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams

ABSENT:

John Obremski

In the City Council
Ordained Roll Call
(Unanimous)

Passed

A True Copy Attest

Tanji Cifuni
Tanji Cifuni
City Clerk

Tanji Joy Cifuni, City Clerk

William Bradley Freeman

William Bradley Freeman, President
City Council

April 14, 2026
Date

Jennifer Grigoraitis

Jennifer Grigoraitis, Mayor

4/14/26
Date

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MELROSE AS FOLLOWS:

That current §152-15 Lunch carts, be deleted.

That Chapter 127 Hawkers, Peddlers and Transient Vendors be amended to reflect a new title — **Hawkers, Peddlers, Transient Vendors, and Mobile Food Vendors** — and a new **Article III Mobile Food Vendors** be added as follows:

Article III – Mobile Food Vendors

§127-13 License Required; Applicability

No person or business entity, including a religious or charitable organization shall operate as a mobile food vendor, , without first obtaining a license from the City Council.

A “Mobile Food Vendor” means any mobile operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, sells, or otherwise provides any prepared or packaged food or beverages for human consumption to the general public from a truck or cart, excluding ice cream trucks.

The purpose of this section is to allow for food trucks or “mobile food vendors” to be licensed to operate in certain designated locations in the City of Melrose and to streamline the process for their operation on a recurring basis within City limits.

A mobile food vendor license is not required with respect to the following mobile food vendors: a) vendors associated with the Melrose Farmers’ Market; b) vendors selling food and beverages on a one-day basis or for special events (up to three calendar days per year per vendor), including charitable and non-profit fundraisers; c) beverage or snack cart services provided at Mt. Hood Golf Course of Bellevue Golf Course; and d) to private events not open to the general public held on private or public property. All such vendors shall continue to follow necessary permitting through the Melrose Board of Health and any other required City approvals.

§127-14 Issuance of License; Fee; Term

- A. Every mobile food vendor wishing to conduct business in the City of Melrose, except those as indicated above, shall apply for and obtain an annual license. An application on a form prescribed by the City Clerk shall be completed on an annual basis and filed with the City Clerk. Each licensee shall pay an annual fee of \$500 for the mobile food vendor license.
- B. Along with any additional required documentation listed on the application, applicants shall submit all of the following with the application for a mobile food vendor license:
 - 1. Proof of Annual Food Service Permit issued by the Melrose Board of Health;

2. Hawkers and Peddlers License issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
 3. Approvals from the Health Department, Parks Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, Fire Department;
 4. If requested location is on public property, a copy of the permission granted by the necessary City board, commission, agency, or department having jurisdiction over the public property (e.g. Parks Commission, Beebe Board of Trustees, School Department, etc.);
 5. If requested location is on private property, a copy of the lease or agreement from the property owner authorizing the intended use;
 6. Occupancy permit issued by the Engineering Department if parking will be along a public way;
 7. Unless operating on private property, the existence of a general liability policy in effect during the days and times for which the license is sought with coverages as required by the City; and
 8. Unless operating on private property, an agreement absolving the City, its officials, officers and employees from all liability in connection with the proposed use of City property, and indemnifying the City for any damage or expenses as required by the City;
- C. After application materials are reviewed for completeness, the applicant will then be required to obtain a license from City Council.
- D. In reviewing an application, the City Council shall consider the public good and general welfare and convenience of the community and shall take into account factors such as the following:
1. Traffic and pedestrian safety,
 2. Impact on nearby parking, residences, and businesses;
 3. Application completeness and departmental approvals;
 4. Existing number of mobile food vendors;
 5. History of compliance;
 6. Other public safety or community concerns.
- E. Approved Locations of Operation:
1. No applicant shall be approved to park within 50 feet of an entrance of a restaurant unless they have received written consent from the owner(s) of any restaurant(s) within 50 feet of the proposed location.
 2. Licensees shall operate only in designated locations approved for the days and times on the License as approved by Council.
- F. The issuance of a mobile food vendor license does not grant to, or entitle, the licensee the exclusive use of any service route or location, in whole or in part, other than the time and place specified in the license or permit for the term of the license or permit.

- G. Annual licenses issued shall begin on May 1st and expire on April 30th the following year. All renewal applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's office by April 1st.
- H. Mobile food vendor licenses may be renewed by the City Clerk on an annual basis upon submission of updated application materials, new departmental approvals, and payment of required fees.

§127-15 Conditions of Operation

- A. Mobile food vendors may only operate at specifically approved public or private locations at specifically approved times.
- B. Mobile food vendor may not operate for more than eight (8) hours at any one location per calendar day.
- C. Mobile food vendors may only operate between the hours of 8:00 AM and 9:00 PM on public property.
- D. Mobile food vendors must maintain a clean site and provide trash/recycling receptacles, and remove all trash and recycling generated by their operation upon departing the site each day. Additionally:
 - 1. All vendors are encouraged to provide consumers with compostable single-service articles, such as compostable forks, and paper plates.
 - 2. No single-use plastic bags are permitted. All bags must follow requirements established in Chapter 198 Article V of the Melrose City Code.
 - 3. Single-use plastic straws are only to be provided upon request as established in Chapter 198 Article VI Melrose City Code.
 - 4. No styrofoam or polystyrene products are permitted as established in Chapter 198 Article VII Melrose City Code..
 - 5. All mobile food vendors shall inspect adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys within 50 feet regularly for purposes of removing any litter found.
- E. Mobile food vendors must follow all posted traffic and parking regulations and park only in legal parking spaces, and may not for any reason park:
 - 1. Blocking any fire department connection or fire lane, fire hydrant, crosswalk, loading zone, or within 20 feet of an intersection or blocking any driveway;
 - 2. Within any bike lane, bus stop, or upon any sidewalk.
- F. Mobile food vendors may not conduct business with people in vehicles nor shall they serve customers who stop or park vehicles in a vehicle or bicycle travel lane near the mobile food vendor.
- G. Mobile food vendors may not provide or allow any dining area, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, bar stools, benches, and standup counters.
- H. Mobile food vendors shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances, and any conditions on the License. Mobile food vendors shall maintain for the term of their License all necessary underlying licenses such as the food establishment permit, state hawker and peddlers' license, and all necessary approvals and insurance coverages for use of the designated location.

- I. Licenses are non-transferable and must be clearly displayed.

§127-16 Enforcement; Modifications; Fines

- A. City Council may modify a mobile food vendor license after the issuance of such license,,i) for cause, after reasonable notice to the licensee of the grounds for the proposed modification and the time and place of the hearing regarding such proposed modification, or ii) at the request of the Licensee, subject to Council approval.
- B. In regards to trucks or carts on public property or along the public way, the City reserves the right to temporarily move a truck or cart to a nearby location if there is a need by the City to use the approved location for emergency purposes, snow removal, construction, or other public benefit.
- C. The City Council may suspend, revoke, or decline to renew a mobile food vendor license for cause, after reasonable notice to the licensee of the grounds for the proposed action and the time and place of the hearing regarding such action.
- D. The Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Health and Human Services Director are all authorized to enforce this ordinance.
- E. In cases involving an immediate public safety or health hazard, the local health director or other enforcing authority may order an immediate, temporary suspension of the license for 14 days without a prior hearing. A public hearing will be held within that timeframe to review the action.
- F. In addition, this ordinance may be enforced by non-criminal disposition under M.G.L. c. 40 § 21D. Any mobile food vendor who refuses, neglects, or fails to comply with any laws, regulations, ordinances, or codes applicable to the license shall be subject to a fine of \$100 per day. Failure to comply with any provision of this Ordinance, or retain the required licenses, permits, and approvals necessary for operation will constitute grounds for violation. Each day of non-compliance shall constitute a separate offense.