

## **ORDINANCE NO. 1219**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEALTHY FOOD TRUCK PERMITS AT ACTIVE COACHELLA DATE FARMS. CITY-INITIATED**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority granted to the City of Coachella (“City”) by Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution, the City has the police power to regulate the use of land and property within the City in a manner designed to promote public convenience and general prosperity, as well as public health, welfare, and safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Ordinance would amend Title 17 (Zoning) to streamline the development review process, create more flexibility in development standards, implement the General Plan and modify Zoning Ordinance to address new changes required by State Law; and

**WHEREAS**, based on that analysis, the City Council finds that the Objective Design Standards are exempt from further review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an administrative activity which will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment and is not a "project" as defined by section 15378 pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15060(c)(2 and 3) and 15061(b)(3). The Ordinance will not result in any increase in the intensity or density of any land use above what is currently allowed in the Coachella General Plan 2035 and the Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2024 the Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, at the said non-hearing item, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2024 the City Council reviewed the ordinance at which time during the hearing members of the public were given an opportunity to testify regarding the Project; and

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **SECTION 1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a pilot program for healthy food truck permits at active date farms zoned with the goal of providing accessible, nutritious food options for residents and visitors in areas that lack food service location, in accordance with the standards in alignment with American Heart Association’s nutritional standards or Coachella Blue Zones Food Guidelines and celebrating the agricultural heritage of the City of Coachella. The program shall be temporary, lasting for a period of four (4) years. The healthy food trucks in the date

farms are intended to encourage establishment of long-term food service and visitor opportunities on the same property.

## **SECTION 2. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Mobile food truck" means a licensed, motorized vehicle, including any legally attached trailer, used in conjunction with the service of a commissary, or other permanent food facility upon which prepackaged or approved non-prepackaged food is sold, offered for sale or otherwise distributed as retail.
2. "Healthy Food Truck" A mobile food truck that provides a menu where at least 25% of food and beverage items meet the nutritional standards set forth by the Blue Zones Food Guidelines and Blue Zones Restaurant Pledge, with an emphasis on nutritional guidelines such as eating seasonal fruits and vegetables, whole grains, beans, and nuts; using plant-based oils; reducing sugar and dairy and increasing plant-based options. It also includes guidelines and recommendations on optimizing the food environment and eating experience and promoting health options.

## **SECTION 3. Eligibility for Healthy Food Truck Permit.**

To qualify for a permit under this ordinance, a food truck must meet the following criteria:

1. **Menu Requirements:** The food and beverage items offered must meet the nutritional standards that align with Blue Zones Food Guidelines and Blue Zones Restaurant Pledge,
  - Offer plant-based foods (vegetables, beans, whole grains, fruits, nuts, tofu, quinoa).
  - Include at least one vegetable per dish.
  - Use 100% whole-grain versions of pasta, pizza, tortillas, and cereals.
  - Offer at least one Blue Zones® Inspired entrée meeting Healthy Dish Guidelines.
  - Provide half-size portions of top-selling entrées.
  - Price plant-based protein entrées lower than meat entrées.
  - Offer whole grain alternatives to refined-grain options.
  - The menu shall offer a minimum of one (1) signature food offering with date ingredients or offer the direct sale of date fruits.
2. **Blue Zones Project Compliance**
  - Source at least three fruits/vegetables from local farms (within 400 miles).
  - Offer water for self-service and healthy beverage alternatives.
  - Serve salad dressings and condiments on the side.
  - Allow customers to request grilled, baked, or broiled options instead of fried.
  - Optimize menu design to highlight healthy options.
  - Train staff quarterly on healthy food initiatives.
  - Prohibit smoking near food trucks.
3. **Location Requirements:** A permit for a mobile food truck shall not be approved unless the following are met:

- A maximum of **three (3)** mobile food truck on a parcel one (1) acre or greater that is under active date farm production with a minimum of 30 live date palm trees subject to plot plan review by the Development Services Department.
- 4. **Compliance and Verification:** Food truck operators must submit a detailed menu with nutritional information to the City of Coachella for approval by the Riverside University Health System (RUHS) Nutrition and Health Promotion Branch prior to receiving a permit. RUHS will conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with these standards throughout the permit period.

#### **SECTION 4. Operational requirements.**

A mobile food truck shall comply with the following:

1. **Area maintenance.** The lot used by the mobile food truck shall be kept free of any debris or trash.
2. **Onsite consumption area.** Tables and chairs may be placed on individual lots subject to plot plan review.
3. **Amplified sound.** No loudspeaker systems, or other device(s) designed to amplify sound are allowed on the lot or associated with the mobile food truck.
4. **Signage.** All signage shall comply with chapter 17.56, sign regulations of this title. Additionally, air flyers and sign twirlers are prohibited on the Lot.
5. **Lights.** All temporary outdoor lighting shall be shielded or downward facing.
6. **Location safety.**
  1. Mobile food trucks shall be located at least fifteen (15) feet from any fire hydrant, utility box or vault, public right of way, emergency vehicle route, internal drive aisle, tree canopy or pedestrian pathway.
  2. Mobile food trucks shall not operate within a five-foot radius of another mobile food truck.
  3. Mobile food trucks shall not otherwise be located within any area of the lot that obstructs pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
7. **Waste disposal.**
  1. No mobile food truck shall cause or dispose of oil, grease, or waste on the lot.
  2. Wastewater generated on-site shall not be released on-site or into the storm drainage system.
8. **Parking.** Adequate on-site parking shall be provided and illustrated on a plot plan with driveways for ingress and egress and adequate dust control measures. In-lieu of impervious surface improvements the applicant may propose compacted decomposed granite or other permeable surfaces subject to a maintenance program approved by the City Engineer.
9. **Display of permit.** A mobile food truck shall possess and at all times display in clear view a certified copy of its current environmental health decal and grade card issued by the department of environmental health and approved healthy food truck permit.

## 10. **Trash receptacles.**

1. At least one visible trash receptacle for use by customers shall be placed within twenty (20) feet of the mobile food truck operation.
2. Unless the property owner has provided for a permitted dumpster, all trash receptacles shall be removed once the mobile food truck operation has ceased each day.

11. **Restrooms.** In accordance with Section 114315 of the California Retail Food Code, mobile food trucks stopped to conduct business for more than one hour, shall operate within two hundred (200) feet of an approved, readily available and functioning restroom facility. If the restroom is within a business, the mobile food truck operator must submit with the plot plan application, written permission from the business owner providing the hours the restroom facilities are being made available for use by the food service workers. ~~Executive~~ **Accessible** portable toilet facilities with handwashing stations may satisfy this requirement.

12. **Accessory Retail Pop-Ups.** The applicant may be permitted to include accessory retail pop-up businesses in designated areas of the mobile food truck plot plan and subject to a City business license.

13. **Activity Areas.** The applicant shall include a minimum of one (1) activity areas (examples: cornhole, horseshoes, Giant Jenga). Organized activities such as group crafts, group work outs or yoga may be permitted and shall be described in the application.

14. **Outdoor Asador Style Grilling.** The applicant may be permitted to conduct accessory outdoor open grilling subject to review on the permit plot plan and County of Riverside Environmental Health permits.

15. **Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.** Mobile food trucks shall comply with all other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

## **SECTION 5. Permit Duration and Renewal.**

1. **Permit Duration:** Permits issued under this pilot program shall be valid for one (1) year, with an option to renew annually for the duration of the four (4)-year pilot program, subject to compliance with the terms of this ordinance.
2. **Temporary Nature:** The pilot program will expire at the end of four (4) years from the date this ordinance takes effect. No new permits will be issued after the expiration of the pilot program unless the City Council takes action to extend or modify the program.
3. **Hours of Operation:** Mobile food trucks operating on a date farm are limited to operating at 7 a.m. and concluding at 10 p.m.

## **SECTION 6. Approval Requirements.**

The Planning Commission shall approve a date farm healthy food truck permit and plot plan as a non-hearing item if all of the following are met:

1. The mobile food truck operation complies with the requirements set forth in this article;
2. Written consent from the lot owner allowing the mobile food truck to operate on the lot has been provided to the planning director;
3. An environmental health permit has been issued for the mobile food truck by the department of environmental health;
4. Inspection of the mobile food truck has been completed by the county fire marshal; and
5. There is no pending code enforcement action on the lot.

#### **SECTION 7. Revocation of Permit.**

The City reserves the right to revoke a food truck's permit for failure to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, including failure to maintain the required percentage of healthy menu items or operating outside of designated private properties.

#### **SECTION 8. CEQA Analysis.**

The Planning Division prepared an environmental assessment for the proposed zoning ordinance amendment and based on that analysis the City Council finds that the Phase 1 Streamline Code Amendments are exempt from further review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an administrative activity which will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment and is not a "project" as defined by section 15378 pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15060(c)(2 and 3) and 15061(b)(3). The Ordinance will not result in any increase in the intensity or density of any land use above what is currently allowed in the Coachella General Plan 2035 and the Zoning Ordinance.

#### **SECTION 9. Severability.**

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

#### **SECTION 10. Effective Date.**

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted as required by law, which shall take full force and effect thirty (30) days from its adoption and remain in effect for the duration of the four-year pilot program unless otherwise amended or repealed.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 22nd of January, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Steven Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Coachella

ATTEST:

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Angela M. Zepeda, City Clerk  
City of Coachella

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Carlos Campos, Best Best & Krieger LLP  
City Attorney