



# **SIDEWALK VENDING APPLICATION**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Please see the following answers to frequently asked questions regarding sidewalk vending within the **Unincorporated Areas of the Alameda County**. All sidewalk vending activities are regulated by Section 3.36 of the Alameda County Municipal Code and the Sidewalk Vendor Rules and Regulations. For additional information, please contact the Alameda County Planning Department at (510) 670-5400.

### **1. How much does a permit cost? Are there additional fees from other agencies?**

The Planning Department charges a fee of \$273.00 for Sidewalk Vending Permit applications.

Additional costs to consider before applying are:

- Environmental Health Permit (if selling food) - \$207.00
- State Seller's Permit – Free, but may require a deposit
- General liability insurance – Check with your insurance provider
- Business License - \$80.00

### **2. What can a sidewalk vendor sell?**

Permitted sidewalk vendors may only vend food and merchandise (non-roaming) that have been approved by the County. If selling food, additional permits from the County's Environmental Health Department are required.

### **3. What is the difference between a roaming and a stationary vendor?**

Per the Sidewalk Vending Rules and Regulations, Roaming Sidewalk Vendors move from place to place and stop only for transactions. Stationary Vendors must stay at a fixed location. Stationary Vendors may not vend in residential neighborhoods and must submit a site plan/map of where they intend to vend with days/hours of operation.

### **4. When does a sidewalk vending permit expire?**

Sidewalk Vending Permits and the Business Licenses are valid for a one (1) calendar year period and must be renewed annually.

### **5. Can a sidewalk vendor transfer his/her permit?**

A Sidewalk Vending Permit cannot be transferred to another applicant or business owner.

## **6. Can a Sidewalk Vending Permit application be denied?**

A Sidewalk Vending Permit application may be denied for one or more of the following:

- The permit application was incomplete;
- The applicant was under eighteen (18) years of age;
- The applicant was seeking to operate unlawfully pursuant to the Alameda County Municipal Code, State law, Federal law, or any other applicable local code;
- All necessary fees have not yet been paid.

## **7. What are the penalties for operating without a permit, or violating my permit?**

Penalties for operating without a permit, or violating the conditions of your permit, begin with a written warning. If violations continue, escalating fines and fees may be issued in accordance with Section 3.36 of the Alameda County Municipal Code.

## **8. My permit was denied and/or I received a fine. Can it be appealed?**

Yes. Decisions to deny a permit application, impose administrative fines, or to rescind a permit may be appealed if filed within 21 days. Appeals shall be heard by the applicable Board of Zoning Adjustments and require a \$50.00 filing fee if for a permit denial. For further information, see Section 3.36.070.

## **9. My business has multiple employees. Will each employee need to submit their own permit application?**

Each Sidewalk Vending Unit / operation requires a separate permit application. If only one vending unit is being used between multiple people, you do not need to apply for separate permits. However, each employee will need to have a copy of the permit displayed at all times. If you intend to have multiple Sidewalk Vending Units / operations, you will need to submit separate applications for each one.

## **10. Is the information in my application kept confidential?**

All applications and applicant information are considered public record. However, information in the red "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" box on the application is for internal use only and will not be released to any agency without a court order.

## **11. Where do I submit my completed application?**

Sidewalk Vending applications must be submitted in-person to the Planning Department. To submit an application or for additional questions, please visit:

Alameda County Planning Department  
224 W. Winton Avenue, Rm. 111, Hayward, CA 94544.  
(510) 670-5460 | [planningcode.enforcement@acgov.org](mailto:planningcode.enforcement@acgov.org)