

Date: January 19, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*  
Kevin Riper, Director of Financial Management *KR*  
Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works *EL*  
Oscar Orci, Director of Development Services *OO*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update on Food Truck Analysis of Possible Regulations and Enforcement**

On February 18, 2020, the City Council requested the City Manager to prepare an analysis of possible options for increased regulation, and enforcement mechanism, of food trucks operating within Long Beach. Work on this issue was postponed due to the onset of the pandemic and resumed in Summer 2021 once fiscal resources were identified. The following provides an update of the status of the request.

City management has convened a multi-departmental working group that has been meeting to identify the complex set of issues surrounding food truck operations within Long Beach. The Departments of Development Services, Financial Management, Health and Human Services, and Public Works are jointly leading the effort, with several other departments also providing support, including Economic Development, Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Police as well as the Office of Special Events. The working group is considering fundamental operational issues such as parking locations and duration, hours of operation, and licensing requirements, and the potential benefits of food trucks for the community and the economic impact to our local economy, including impacts to existing restaurants. These are complex issues governed by a mixture of state and local regulations that are enforced by multiple departments and agencies in the region, which often lack clarity or specificity, and may conflict with each other.

Staff determined that with current resource constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, as well as with other critical initiatives underway, a consultant was best positioned to assist the working group with research and development of options. Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC) was selected from the bench of on-call consultants maintained by the Development Services Department. LWC has specific experience developing food truck regulations with peer cities such as Austin and San Diego, among others, and has provided the City with critical assistance with previous notable projects and initiatives including, but not limited to, the City Zoning Code Audit, Housing Element Update, Short-Term Rentals Policy, and Wetlands Bank Processing.

LWC estimated an overall project timeline of nine to ten months, beginning in July 2021. To date, LWC's efforts have included completing staff interviews and an assessment of existing conditions. Initial public outreach efforts began in Fall 2021 will continue into 2022. The outreach efforts are targeted one-on-one and smaller group interviews with participants that include the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, business associations improvement districts, restaurateurs near popular food truck hubs, food truck operators, and other community members. A case study of similar jurisdictions that have established food truck programs is

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also ongoing. Ultimately, these efforts will result in recommendations for updates to the City's health regulations, zoning requirements, regulations of the public-right-of-way and parking, and business license requirements. Additional funding is likely needed to complete the analysis and outreach and will be considered for any fiscal year end savings. Recommendations detailing a viable food truck program is tentatively scheduled for the City Council review in March 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Tara Mortensen, Business Services Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-6340.

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