By: ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2023-01

Order Limiting the Time, Place, and Location of Mobile Food Vending Operations

Whereas, the Columbus City Codes Chapter 573, as recently amended by Ordinance No. 1730-2023, establishes regulations and licensing requirements for mobile food vending operations within the City, and

Whereas, Columbus City Codes amended Chapter 573 establishes and defines Congestion Zones as a geographic area that has a combination of public right of way parking limitations, meter restrictions, vehicular traffic patterns, pedestrian density, and mobility issues, such that unrestricted access for mobile food vending constitutes threat to public health and safety and authorizes the Director of Public Safety to create, designate, alter or eliminate Congestion Zones; and

Whereas, pursuant to Columbus City Codes amended Chapter 573, areas in the Short North neighborhood, as defined by Victorian Village Commission and the Italian Village Commission, have been designated as a Congestion Zone; and

Whereas, it has been observed that the presence of mobile food vending operations within the Short North has increased motor vehicle and pedestrian congestion and caused large gatherings of people, most especially in the hours after 11:59 pm on weekends, increasing the potential threat to public health and safety; and

Whereas, the Short North neighborhood has experienced actual incidents of violence including a fatal shooting on May 14, and two shootings eight days prior resulting in 10 people wounded and 11 firearms recovered; and

Whereas, Columbus City Codes § 573.131(c) authorizes the Director of the Department of Public Service, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Public Safety, to designate areas as unavailable for mobile food vending if operation at such location would constitute a threat to public health and safety; and

Whereas, Columbus City Codes § 573.02 prohibits the operation of any mobile food vending unit within the corporate limits of the City of Columbus without a current and valid mobile food vending license issued by the License Section; and

Whereas, Columbus City Codes Chapter 573 authorizes the Director of Public Service, in consultation with the Director of Public Safety, to establish Congestion Zones, at their discretion, according to any rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of Public Service, and to limit, by rule, the number of reservations available; and

Whereas, the Columbus City Codes amended Chapter 573 defines "License Section" as the Department of Public Safety, Division of Support Services, License Section; and

Whereas, Columbus City Codes § 217.01 establishes the Department of Public Safety, including the Division of Support Services, License Section, which shall perform all lawful functions as directed by the mayor or ordinance of council; and
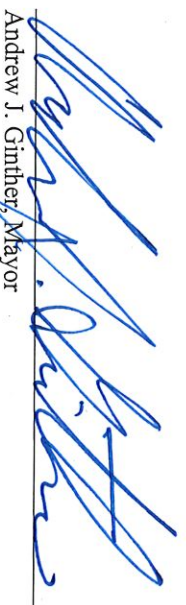
Whereas, Columbus City Codes § 219.01 establishes the Department of Public Service which shall perform all lawful functions as directed by the mayor or ordinance of council;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrew Ginther, Mayor of the City of Columbus, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Ohio Constitution, the Charter of the City of Columbus, and the Columbus City Codes, do hereby order and direct the Director of the Department of Public Service and the Director of the Department of Public Safety, within their respective jurisdiction under the Columbus City Codes, to prohibit mobile food vending operations in the Short North after 11:59 pm, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.

This order shall be in full force and effect on and after May 19, 2023 and will continue to be in effect unless or until such time as superseded by subsequent ordinance of City Council. This order may be modified, extended, or rescinded at any time if public health and safety conditions warrant.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, to be hereto affixed this 18ᵗʰ day of May, 2023.

Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor