

Date: September 17 2018

To: Alder President Tyisha Walker-Myers

Dear Alder President Walker-Myers,

Attached is a proposed ordinance to create a “Micro-Food Business Permit for MBE/SBI small businesses by reducing fees and streamlining the process of obtaining a permit to establish a food business from the City of New Haven Health Department.

Currently all license commercial kitchen spaces in New Haven can rent their facility to any other person or business. Each business operating under an independent Business Name and State Sales and Use Permit must get its own New Haven Health Department Food Service license.

The current process for a small startup business is both cumbersome and a waste of city resources. When renting an existing space a start-up business requires each city department to revisit the establishment to do a redundant inspection of spaces already previously approved for licensing. This is a drain on city services.

In addition, the application fee for a micro-business renting kitchen space for limited hours is the same as the established business who has both onsite food production opportunity as well as onsite retail sales opportunities, which is not available to the micro-business. A micro-business does not bring in the same financial resources as a larger business and as a result does not have the same financial capacity for overhead. Small startup food businesses in New Haven begin with limited time and financial resources. This is more severe for people who have historically been shut out of access to capital.

The implementation of this proposed ordinance will help create more equitable access to entrepreneurship among diverse populations and create the opportunity for startup businesses to build financial and operational capital in an industry in which startup cost are often inhibiting.

Your welcomed support of this ordinance will significantly improve small businesses in the City of New Haven.

Sincerely,

Mubarakah Ibrahim

CEO Mmm Pies and Gourmet Desserts

Phone: 203-464-5397 Email: 2mmmpies@gmail.com

City of New Haven, New Haven MBE/SBI Micro-Food Business Ordinance

Presented to: The New Haven Board of Alderpersons

Date: Monday September 17, 2018

Purpose

This ordinance seeks to increase the capacity of New Haven based MBE/SBI Micro-Food Business in the City of New Haven that uses an established business' commercial kitchen and grosses less than \$250,000 annually.

This ordinance seeks adjust fees proportionate to the revenue capacity of the MBE/SBI Micro-Food Businesses.

Retain tax base and revenue to the City of New Haven.

Proposed Ordinance for “Micro-Business Food Service License”

This license would be limited to MBE/SBI Micro-Food Business in the City of New Haven:

- Rent from a commercial kitchen with a current Food Service Establishment Permit from the City of New Haven
- Bake or cook without the use of frying or other oil heavy cooking that would require a grease trap
- Do not make any structural changes to the facility
- Do not install any major equipment

Application Process

Any start-up business categorizing itself as a “Micro-Food Service Business” renting from an licensed commercial kitchen space in the city of New Haven, will present a copy of the current Permit to Operate a Food Service Establishment from the City of New Haven Health Department as proof of current certification of the space, pay a fee of \$75 and receive a “Micro-Business Food Service License” with all the rights and privileges of a food service license.

Prorated Fee for Licensing

A food service business seeking a “Application for a Permit to Operate a Food Service Establishment” shall pay a prorated fee per quarter and an annual fee May first of each year. [Example: Application submitted February 1st will pay one-quarter of the annual fee at time of application and the annual fee due Mast 1st of that year.]

Submitted by Mubarakah S. Ibrahim,
Ceo Mmm Pies & Gourmet Desserts LLC
Prepared 9/17/2018

Saving in Costs and City Resources

Currently all license commercial kitchen spaces in New Haven can rent their facility to any other person or business. Each business operating under an independent business name and State Sales and Use permit must get its own New Haven Health Department Food Service license.

The current process for a small startup business is both cumbersome and a waste of city resources. When renting an existing space a start-up business requires each city department to revisit the establishment to do a redundant inspection of spaces already previously approved for licensing. This is a drain on city services.

In addition, the application fee for a micro-business renting kitchen space for limited hours is the same as the established business who has both onsite food production opportunity as well as onsite retail sales opportunities, which is not available to the micro-business.

A micro-business does not bring in the same financial resources as a larger business and as a result does not have the same financial capacity for overhead.

Small startup food businesses in New Haven begin with limited time and financial resources. This is more severe for people who have historically been shut out of access to capital.

Existing Licensing Process:

Currently the city of New Haven Health Department requires all food businesses to go through the same process is obtaining a food establishment license.

Physically come to the health department office at 54 Meadow Street in New Haven to pick up an “Application for a Permit to Operate a Food Service Establishment” and instruction sheet.

One must then get 4 departments to sign off on the application

- The Fire Marshal's Office (Physical Meeting)
- The Zoning Department
- The Regional Water Authority (Physical Meeting)
- The Building Department

Each department must sign off in the order is which they appear above, although each inspection is independent of all others. After each department has signed off the application is then returned to the Health Department and a fee is assessed based on the square footage of the facility.

- Up to 1,500 sq. ft = \$150
- 1,500 to 3,000 sq. ft = \$275
- Over 3,000 sq. ft = \$475

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Once the fee is paid the designated Health Department Inspector then makes an appointment to physically come to the space to inspect and deliver certificate.

This certificate fee is good from May 1st until April 30th the following year. If a business gets license in March of any particular year there is no prorated fee and the business must pay a one year licensing fee for 2 month of certification and pay again May 1st for renewal.

Submitted By

Mubarakah Ibrahim Ceo Mmm Pies & Gourmet Desserts

Supported

Alder Jeannette Morrison for 22nd Ward

Tagan Engel: Community Leader in Food Systems & Social Justice

Austin Bryniarski, Chair, New Haven Food Policy Council

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