DATE:	March 2, 2026	1ST READING:	March 2, 2026
INTRODUCED BY:	Mayor Corcoran	2ND READING:	April 20, 2026 Amended
REFERRED BY:	COW on 04-13-2026	3RD READING:	May 4, 2026
		ADOPTED:	May 4, 2026
		EFFECTIVE:	June 3, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-27

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 857 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, TITLED *MOBILE FOOD VENDORS*, BY REPLACING IT IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH A NEW CHAPTER 857 TITLED *MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES*.

WHEREAS, the City has determined that revisions are necessary to improve clarity, consistency and enforceability of regulations governing mobile and temporary food service operations; and

WHEREAS, updated regulations are necessary to address public health, safety and welfare considerations, including fire safety, pedestrian access, traffic circulation and the safe operation of food service equipment; and

WHEREAS, clearer standards regarding location, duration of operation and site conditions are necessary to ensure such operations remain compatible with surrounding uses and do not create adverse impacts on adjacent properties; and

WHEREAS, the amendments are intended to support reasonable business activity while preventing the unintended establishment of temporary businesses or semi-permanent operations that may be inconsistent with the City's zoning and land use objectives; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to repeal the existing Chapter 857 and replace it in its entirety with updated regulations reflecting these purposes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. Chapter 857 of the Codified Ordinances, presently titled *Mobile Food Vendors* and attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, is hereby replaced in its entirety by the version attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, titled *Mobile Food Vehicles*.

SECTION 2. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this amendment are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were conducted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal

action were in meetings open to the public in accordance with all legal requirements, including §121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: May 4, 2026

Holly A. Swenk
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:
Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: May 06, 2026

Kevin Corcoran
MAYOR

Exhibit A

CHAPTER 857. MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

857.01 Definitions

(a) "Mobile food vendor." A motorized vehicle, trailer, tent or stand which, upon issuance of a permit by the Fire Department, and in conformance with the regulations established by this chapter, may temporarily locate on public or private property and engage in the service, sale or distribution of ready to eat food for individual portion service to the general public.

(b) "Mobile food vehicle vendor." The registered owner of a mobile food vendor vehicle, trailer, stand or business, or the owner's agent or employee; and referred to in this chapter as "vendor."

857.02 Scope

The provisions of this chapter apply to mobile food vendors engaged in the business of cooking, preparing and/or distributing food or beverage with or without charge upon or in public and private properties. This chapter does not apply to vehicles which dispense food and that move from place to place and are stationary in the same location for no more than 15 minutes at a time, such as ice cream trucks, or food vending pushcarts and stands located on sidewalks.

857.03 Permit required

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, including any religious, charitable or nonprofit organization to operate within the City any mobile food vending activity without first having obtained a current mobile food license from Lorain County Public Health and a mobile food vendor permit from the City of North Ridgeville.

(b) A person desiring to engage in mobile food vending shall obtain a mobile food vendor permit at least 48 hours in advance from the Fire Department by submitting an application form to include the following:

(1) Name, phone number, email contact and business address of the applicant;

(2) A brief description of the preparation methods and food product offered for sale;

(3) Information on the mobile food vehicle to include year, make and model of the vehicle and dimensions, which shall not exceed 36 feet in length or 9 feet in width; and

(4) Information setting forth the proposed hours of operation, arrival time at the site, area of operation, plans for power access, cooking and heating equipment, water supply and wastewater disposal.

(c) Upon on-site fire inspection, all vendors must provide copies of a current mobile food license from Lorain County Public Health, a permit from the Fire Department and insurance information including the following:

(1) Proof of General Comprehensive Liability policy with limits of no less than $1 million of Combined Single Limit coverage issued by an insurer licensed to do business in this state and which names the City of North Ridgeville as an additional insured.

(2) Proof of Public Liability and Property Damage motor vehicle policy with limits of no less than $1 million issued by an insurer licensed to do business in this state.

(e) A permit issued under this chapter shall not be transferred from person to person.

(f) A permit is valid for one motorized vehicle, trailer, tent or stand and shall not be transferred.

857.04 Regulations

Mobile food vendors shall obey all rules and regulations set forth by Lorain County Public Health, the Ohio Fire Code and the North Ridgeville Codified Ordinances. Additionally:

(a) Mobile food vendors are prohibited from conducting business in the public right-of-way or on public property unless in conjunction with an approved Special Event Permit.

(b) No operator of a mobile food vehicle shall park, stand or move a vehicle and conduct business within areas of the City where the permit holder has not been authorized to operate.

(c) Mobile food vendors shall not be located within 50 feet from a commercial or residential structure without prior Fire Department approval.

(d) No mobile food vendor shall utilize loud speakers or other noise-making devices.

857.05 Enforcement

(a) Any permit holder operating a mobile food vehicle in violation of any provision of this chapter or any rules and regulations promulgated by the City shall be a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

(b) Once a permit has been issued, it may be revoked, suspended or not renewed by the Fire Department for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter and any rules or regulations promulgated by the City.

Exhibit B Proposed Chapter 857

CHAPTER 857. MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES

857.01 Definitions

(a) "Mobile food vehicle." A food establishment that is located upon or within a moveable vehicle or apparatus, including but not limited to motorized vehicles, trailers and hand propelled carts, where food or beverage is cooked, prepared or served for individual portion service. This definition does not apply to vehicles used in mobile frozen dessert sales, “meals on wheels” program vehicles or food delivery services.

(b) "Mobile food vendor." The registered owner of a mobile food vehicle, or the owner's agent or employee; and referred to in this chapter as "vendor."

(c) “Special event.” A preplanned, temporary gathering held in a public area including public parks, streets, sidewalks or rights-of-way that may impact public safety, traffic or municipal services therefore requiring city approvals and/or permits.

(d) “State mobile food service operation definition.” The terms “mobile food service operation” and “mobile retail food establishment” are defined by the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code in Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3717-1-01 and Ohio Revised Code § 3717.01. Under these definitions, a food service operation that operates from a movable vehicle and routinely changes location is considered a mobile food service operation. If the operation remains at one location for more than forty (40) consecutive days, it is no longer considered a mobile food service operation for state food safety licensing purposes.

(e) “Temporary Food Service Tent.” A non-vehicular temporary structure, including a tent, canopy or membrane structure, used for the preparation or service of food for a limited time.

857.02 Food license and permit required

No person or entity shall operate a mobile food vehicle within the City without first having obtained a current mobile food license from Lorain County Public Health and a permit issued by the North Ridgeville Fire Department. A mobile food vehicle permit is required for every mobile food vehicle.

857.03 Application and permit issuance

(a) Any person seeking a permit to operate a mobile food vehicle shall make application to the Fire Department, pay a non-refundable application fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00) and provide the following information:

(1) Name, phone number, email and business address of the vendor;

(2) A description of the proposed menu and food preparation methods;

(3) Information on the mobile food vehicle to include type of unit, dimensions, make/model and vehicle registration; and

(4) Additional information requested, including but not limited to proof of fire safety compliance, plans for power access, cooking and heating equipment and details on water supply and wastewater disposal.

(b) Each operator of a mobile food vehicle shall provide proof of general commercial liability insurance in an amount not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000), which shall also

insure, indemnify and hold harmless the City from any and all judgments, costs or expenses which the City may incur or suffer as a result of the issuance of a permit to, and the activities of, the mobile food vehicle.

(c) Each mobile food vehicle shall be inspected by the Fire Department, at the designated fire station, on an annual basis prior to issuance of a permit to ensure compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local fire safety statutes, regulations, ordinances and codes.

(d) Upon successful completion of the application and inspection process, the Fire Chief shall issue a permit, valid from the date of issuance until April 1 of the following year. The current permit shall be displayed upon the mobile food vehicle in an unobscured, conspicuous place. A permit is valid for one mobile food vehicle and shall not be transferred.

(e) If the application is denied, the Fire Chief shall state the specific reasons for the denial. Any applicant who has been denied a permit may appeal such denial by making application to the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals within ten (10) days of the denial.

857.04 Regulations

Mobile food vehicles are subject to these additional regulations:

(a) Mobile food vehicles are prohibited from operating in the public right-of-way or on public property unless in conjunction with an approved special event or block party as approved by the Mayor.

(b) Mobile food vehicles may be permitted on private property only with the written approval of the property owner. No mobile food vehicle shall operate at a location where the vendor has not been authorized to do business.

(c) Mobile food vehicles shall not operate within 10 feet of commercial or residential structures without prior Fire Department approval.

(d) Mobile food vehicles may operate in any given location no more than 60 days in a calendar year and no more than five consecutive days. Duration limits do not apply to mobile food vehicles owned or contracted by an onsite restaurant. Duration limits may be waived for mobile food vehicles operating on City-owned property as approved by the Mayor.

(e) Hours of operation shall be limited to 7:00 a.m. to ~~9~~10:00 p.m. or as approved in conjunction with a special event.

(f) Mobile food vehicles shall not exceed 36 feet in length or 9 feet in width.

(g) Mobile food vehicles shall only be parked on a paved or hard surface, unless in conjunction with an approved special event. Mobile food vehicles shall not be located in a manner as to block required parking, fire hydrants, fire lanes or means of egress from buildings.

(h) Mobile food vehicles shall serve pedestrian customers only; no drive-through operations or drive-in service is permitted.

(i) No vendor shall utilize loudspeakers or other noise-making devices. Vendors shall comply at all times with City noise regulations.

(j) Vendors shall provide for trash and/or recycling receptacles in close proximity to the mobile food vehicle. Trash must be removed daily from the site.

857.05 Temporary food service tents.

(a) Temporary food service tents are prohibited unless in conjunction with an approved special event.

(b) Temporary food service tents may operate no more than four (4) consecutive days per event, with a maximum of eight (8) events per calendar year per location, unless otherwise approved by the Fire Chief.
(c) The use of cooking equipment within a temporary food service tent is subject to Fire Department approval on a case-by-case basis. The use of deep fryers or similar grease-producing equipment under tents is prohibited.
(d) Temporary food service tents shall comply with Chapter 1470 Tents and all applicable requirements of Lorain County Public Health.

857.06 Enforcement and penalty
(a) Any mobile food vehicle shall be subject to inspection by the Fire Department during operations to ensure compliance with applicable codes and ordinances. The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by the North Ridgeville Police Department or Building Division.
(b) Any mobile food vehicle being operated without a valid permit issued by the City shall be deemed a public safety hazard and may be ticketed and impounded.
(c) Any vendor operating a mobile food vehicle in violation of any provision of this chapter or any rules and regulations promulgated by the City is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense; for a second offense, such vendor is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.
(d) Once a permit has been issued, it may be revoked, suspended or not renewed by the Fire Department for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter and any rules or regulati