

Regarding helping small biz help the city thrive –

When we started Green Element Resale, we thought that the annual sidewalk & garage / yard sale weekend would be a slow sales weekend for us due to all the increased affordable sales activity in our area. We were completely wrong. That annual weekend is always among our strongest sales days of the year.

Just like restaurants & cafes pay the city for permission to use the sidewalk – all the rest of us small businesses could also quite handily figure out how to make the sidewalk work for us and the neighborhood. The city would then collect more permit revenues and increased sales taxes from us same small businesses. As entrepreneurs' we know full well if renting the sidewalk is worth it or not to our business. The added benefit for the neighborhood is increased safety because bad guys with guns do not gravitate towards places with more eye witnesses.

As small businesses we can easily make the same type of corrals that sidewalk cafes do – or if the extent of desired space is only for something like a rack of dresses – that permit fee can reflect the amount of desired space – or maybe just a flat fee based on say three basic size variations would be the way to go.

Basically, it would be the ability for any small biz to perform sidewalk sales year-round – one million small businesses were collapsed nationwide due to our govt. covid policies. This is a way to help those that survived – and a way for the city to help itself with increased permit fees and increased sales tax revenues due to increased sales from small businesses. This policy must only be offered to small locally owned businesses – not multi national chains, such as Target, Walmart, Amazon, etc. They remove seventy cents of each dollar spent locally, while a small business retains that same seventy cents into the local economy. And again – as an added benefit, offering this to small businesses will increase any neighborhood's safety

The push back argument in the past has often centered around “Well the city does not want to get sued if someone trips over something or if something falls on someone” that argument is easily settled by the small biz owner's liability insurance listing the city of Chicago as additional insured, hence the city has no liability in these situations – just like if a string of lights or a potted plant fell and hit someone in the head in any of these sidewalk café type setups. Just like the current permits for any number of things are based on the permit holder's liability insurance being validated as the exchange for the permit itself

Thanks so much for your time and consideration of this helping hand to small businesses and to increased vitality to our local city of Chicago communities!

Cheers,  
Brian Haag

Founder Big Medicine, NFP dba Green Element Resale