About the “STREET PEDDLER AND STREET PERFORMER” license

Business licensing has been simplified and streamlined as part of the Mayor’s License Reform Initiative. As a result, “Street Peddler” and “Street Performer” business licenses have been consolidated. You may now be licensed as a Street Peddler, a Street Performer or as both under one license.

What is a STREET PEDDLER? (MCC 4-244-030)

A “Street Peddler” is a person who moves from place to place, whether on private property or on the public way, selling goods, wares, merchandise, wood, fruits and/or vegetables which are whole and uncut. A street peddler may sell from a wagon, motor vehicle, handcart, pushcart or other vehicle.

What is a STREET PERFORMER? (MCC 4-244-161)

A “Street Performer” means any person who performs, but is not limited to, the following activities: acting, singing, playing musical instruments, pantomime, juggling, magic, dancing or reciting.

How do I apply?

You may apply for a license in person at the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) office in City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street, Room 800. An appointment is recommended and can be made by calling (312) 74-GOBIZ / (312) 744-6249, or by going online at www.cityofchicago.org/sbc, and then click on Schedule an Appointment with a Business Consultant.

License Application

- A separate license is required for each individual.
- Only one license is required to conduct both “Street Peddler” and “Street Performer” activities, however, all activities and all wares that such street peddler intends to sell, offer for sale, sell and deliver, barter or exchange must be clearly stated on the license application.
- Provide current government-issued identification, such as a valid driver’s license, passport or other official photo identification.
- Current residence address must be stated on the identification provided.
- All street peddlers must obtain an Illinois Department of Revenue Account ID (i.e. Illinois Business Tax) Number; register at www.tax.illinois.gov.
- Street Peddlers must be at least 16 years of age.
- Street Performers must provide proof that the applicant is at least 18 years of age.
- License application fee: $100.00 for a 2-year term; $50.00 for seniors who are 65 or more years of age at the time of application, veterans of the armed forces of the United States whose discharge from military or naval service was other than dishonorable, or a person with a physical or mental disability as certified by a medical doctor.
**Peddling Rules:**

- a. City issued Street Peddler photo ID badge must be worn and visible at all times while peddling.
- b. One helper or assistant is allowed per wagon, motor vehicle, handcart, pushcart or other vehicle.
- c. Wagons, motor vehicles, handcarts, pushcarts or other vehicles used by a licensed street peddler shall have the owner’s name and address legibly painted in letters and figures at least two inches high on each side of the wagon, cart or vehicle.
- d. Wagons, motor vehicles, handcarts, pushcarts or other vehicles used for peddling require a vehicle emblem.
- e. Peddling is prohibited in alleys between 5 p.m. – 7 a.m.
- f. Peddling of flowers, floral bouquets, growing plants, and selling food is **not** allowed.
- g. Only whole and uncooked fruits and vegetables are permitted to be sold.

**Where can I PEDDLE?**

Certain areas of the City have been designated by the City Council as “no Peddling Zones.” Street peddlers are not permitted to conduct business in these zones. A complete list is available at the City Clerk’s office. Also, there are specific location restrictions for the United Center, Wrigley Field, U.S. Cellular Field, Millennium Park and City-sponsored special events. Full details are listed in the Street Peddlers Ordinance; **MCC 4-244**.

**Street Performer Rules:**

- a. A performance may take place in any public area, but only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays and 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.
- b. A performer may not block the passage of the public through a public area.
- c. A performer may not perform on the public way so as to obstruct access to private property, except with the prior consent of the owner or manager of the property.
- d. A performer shall comply in all respects with the relevant portions of the noise and vibration control provisions of the Chicago Noise Ordinance, **MCC 8-32**, and all other applicable Code provisions, which prohibit a street performer from generating any sound by any means so that the sound is louder than an average conversational level at a distance of 100 feet or more, measured either horizontally or vertically from the point of generation.
- e. All street performers are prohibited from performing in the highly congested area on both sides of Michigan Avenue, bounded by East Delaware Place on the north and East Superior Street on the south.
- f. No performer shall, while performing on the public way (1) along that portion of Jackson Boulevard that lies between Columbus Drive and Lake Shore Drive at any time during which a concert is being performed in the Petrillo Music Shell, or (2) along that portion of Randolph Street that lies between Columbus Drive and Michigan Avenue, and along that portion of Columbus Drive that lies between Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street, at any time during which a concert is being performed in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, emit noise that is audible to a person with normal hearing more than 20 feet away.
- g. No performance by a performer shall be allowed at any time in Millennium Park, or on any sidewalk that abuts Millennium Park.
- h. A performer shall carry and display a permit on his or person at all times while performing in a public area, and shall wear the permit in a manner that is clearly visible to the public.