



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 21, 2025**

## **City of Bellmead Updates Regulations for Mobile Food Units to Protect Public Health and Infrastructure**

Bellmead, TX – The City of Bellmead values the role food trucks play in fostering culinary diversity, enhancing community events, and contributing to the local economy. However, recent challenges regarding repeated health and safety violations by some operators have made it necessary for the City to strengthen enforcement and clarify expectations through an updated Mobile Food Unit (MFU) ordinance.

### **Why We Updated the Rules**

The City has experienced ongoing issues where mobile food vendors—despite prior warnings and education—have connected directly to city water and wastewater infrastructure, bypassing required safeguards. These unauthorized connections have led to:

- Sewage backups affecting local businesses and residents
- Infrastructure damage from fats, oils, and grease (FOG) blockages
- Water quality concerns due to lack of backflow prevention
- Costly after-hours emergency response by Public Works crews

Food trucks must follow the same high standards as our brick-and-mortar restaurants, such as Christi's Burgers, Jim's Chicken, Molly's, El Conquistador, and our national chains. These standards are in place to protect public health, support fair competition, and preserve essential city services.

### **Key Ordinance Highlights**

The revised ordinance, effective immediately, ensures that all MFUs:

- Remain mobile and may not stay in the same location for more than 24 consecutive hours
- Do not connect directly to city utilities (water, wastewater, or electric)
- Operate with approved waste and grease management practices
- Maintain valid permits, food handler certifications, and fire safety compliance
- Relocate at least 1,000 feet after each 24-hour operating period
- Respect setback requirements, including staying at least 500 feet from existing restaurants unless permission is granted

MFUs must also operate from a permitted commissary or central preparation facility and are limited to operating between 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

### **Supporting the MFU Community**

Our goal is not to restrict mobile vendors. We want to partner with them to ensure their businesses thrive in a way that's safe, sanitary, and respectful to the community.

## **A Shared Responsibility**

The City of Bellmead encourages all mobile food vendors to review the full ordinance, available on the City's website, and to reach out with any questions about compliance, permitting, or inspections.

We appreciate the creativity and entrepreneurship of our MFU operators and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the best dining experience for all Bellmead residents and visitors.