

June 14, 2025

Dear Mayor Giordani and City Council Members,

I am a Bellevue resident, and I am writing to urge you to **vote NO to the proposed ordinance allowing sales from mobile vendors in the city.**

I understand one argument in favor of mobile vendors is that commercial space is so expensive. Unfortunately, that is true throughout the valley. And yet there *is* space available to rent in Bellevue. If cost is truly the issue, then we should consider incentivizing local property owners - who are already faithfully paying taxes on their properties - to provide more affordable rents. As you probably know, Ketchum recently initiated something similar for housing rentals.

It has also been suggested that there are artists and young people in our community who want to sell their creations but can't afford the costs of a traditional business. They could, of course, participate in the weekly farmer's market in Hailey. Less than \$100 in fees for the entire season is quite economical and a fantastic way to get in front of an audience that is willing to pay significantly for created goods. And therein lies the catch - "absolutely no imports, resale, or commercially made items" are allowed for sale at the farmer's market. The farmer's market is not a flea market.

The proposed ordinance would essentially allow Main Street to become one long flea market. Cheap blankets, imported trinkets, t-shirts with trending slogans, knock-off name-brand goods, and more. And who will determine what items are offensive and what is not? Do we want to risk seeing items with profanity or propagating poor behavior?

A Main Street that looks like a flea market will undoubtedly affect property values. We are already visually contending with businesses that distract from Main Street appeal. And these are good, strong, well-established businesses that would, however, normally be regulated to an industrial district.

Consideration for the business owners who have already invested in our city is imperative. These entrepreneurs have signed leases and are working hard to attract and keep customers. Do we not owe them loyalty and support?

Certainly the city's efforts to attract *more* businesses, business that contribute to the value of our town, will not be enhanced by allowing mobile vendors along Main Street.

What benefit, in fact, *does* the city expect to receive by allowing these temporary pop-up sales? And, does that unassured hope supersede our relationships with traditional businesses?

In summary,

1. We must have restrictions against mobile vendors in order to preserve what charm Bellevue still has, particularly along Main Street. **The visual appeal of Main Street is essential in maintaining property values.**

And

2. We must not do anything that harms our current businesses and unfairly competes with their sales and their success. **These small business owners have invested in our town and demonstrated their belief and loyalty to Bellevue. We owe them no less in return.**

Thank you for your service to our community and your continued consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jan Peppler
208/481-0110
501 S Main St, Bellevue, ID

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Giordiani,

As a Blaine County resident with adjacent property in the City of Bellevue, a former Bellevue business owner, and a long-time proponent of the City, I'd just like to offer a few thoughts for your discussion regarding regulating or prohibiting street vendors on private property.

- While I really don't want to see Bellevue start looking like a flea market, and I know that's the fear of several folks I've talked to about the issue, I also want to support the entrepreneurial spirit of people who may not be able to afford a traditional brick and mortar location for their business.
- For example, I believe the presence of food trucks increases the vibrancy of a city, as opposed to "cheapening" it, as many feared when they first started becoming prevalent.
- However, having people setting up random items sourced from random locations, spilling willy-nilly in parking lots is also not the look Bellevue should be aspiring to.
- In the end, I'm not sure there's a legal basis for a prohibition - obviously your attorney is the expert on that. Therefore, if you decide to regulate instead of prohibiting mobile vendors on private property, I hope you'll consider:
 - They need a business license, like everyone else
 - They need to collect and pay sales tax, like everyone else
 - There should be a visual control of some sort - shade tents in good condition with all items for sale within the footprint of the tent, perhaps? (Yes, that's an investment, but all business startups require investment, and this one should not be a hardship.)

I'm sure you all have thought of all this, and more, so thank you for your hard work and I appreciate your service on behalf of our awesome little community.

Best,
Brooke Bonner
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Bellevue

