

CBS / D1 – Crime Within Food Truck Zones
Cincinnati Police Department



Opening

- **Scan: Defining the “Issue”**
 - Disorder, fighting, and traffic/parking
 - Strain on CBS/D1 police resources
- **Analysis: Understanding the Associated Factors**
 - Proximity to Liquor Establishments
 - Lack of Clear Place Management
 - Extending “Late Night” Hours
- **Response:**
 - Restrict Hours of Operation on Friday – Sunday (Sept 4)
- **Initial Assessment:**
 - Quantitate/Data: Improved but needs more time
 - Officer Observations: Improved



September 4, 2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager *SL*

Subject: Updated Restrictions for Red Bike and Food Truck Use

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the restrictions to Red Bike use in the Special Curfew District. The City has seen a decline in property crime as a result of several interventions utilized this summer, including a restriction on the use of Red Bikes and rental e-scooters during weekend evenings. We continue to work with Red Bike to identify technological solutions to ensure low-cost transportation options remain available to all. As a result of those conversations, starting Friday, September 5, Red Bike will remove the option to purchase 2-hour passes from 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. This means riders with existing memberships will not be affected by the restriction while continuing to deter the use of this legitimate transportation system by those with criminal intent. The current e-scooters restrictions will remain in place.

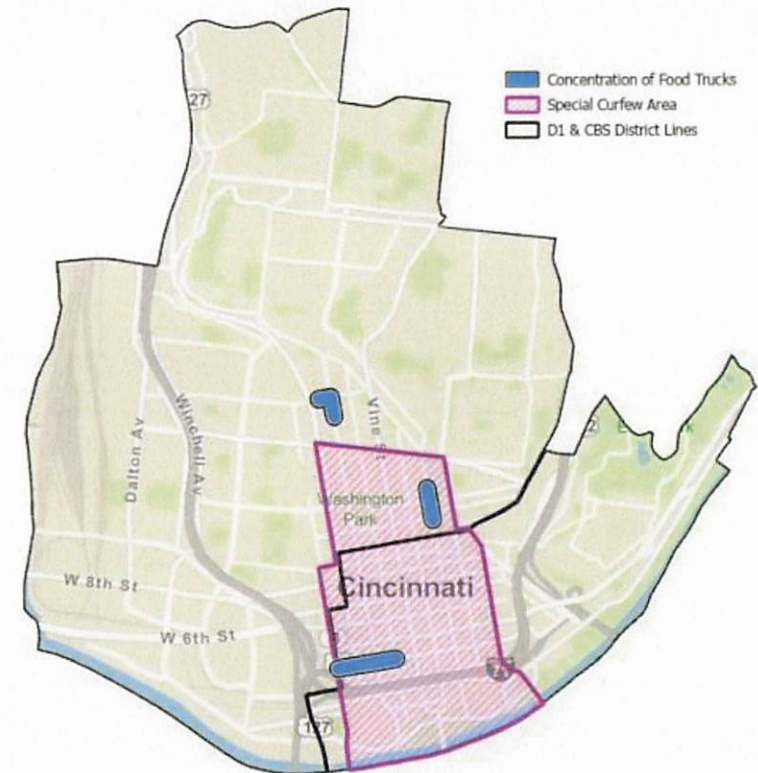
Additionally, the City is enacting new restrictions on the use of food trucks in the Central Business District and Over-the-Rhine to begin Friday, September 5. No food trucks will be permitted to operate in the area after 11 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays year-round.

This decision is in response to increasing public safety concerns in our urban core due to food trucks operating into the early morning hours. Our teams from the Cincinnati Police Department, Cincinnati Health Department, Cincinnati Fire Department and Department of Public Services will be out conducting inspections to ensure compliance.

cc: John Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager
Teresa Theetge, Chief, Cincinnati Police Department
Dr. Grant Mussman, Director, Cincinnati Health Department
Mark Riley, Director, Department of Public Services
Greg Long, Interim Director, Department of Transportation and Engineering

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Map of District 1 and Central Business Section

Scanning: Defining Exact “Problem”

- **Problem #1:** Disorder, Fighting, Traffic/Parking Concerns
- **Problem #2:** Strain on Police Resources
 - Larger need for late night presence (on top of CBS Beat Cops)

What is CAD and a Call for Service (CFS)?

Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) is a system that records every CFS. It helps call-takers and dispatchers manage officers in the field.

Contrary to common belief, a CFS isn't just a citizen call. It also includes self-initiated officer activity and contacts. These entries support coordination and safety by showing who is available and engaged on an assignment.

Calls for Service near Food Truck Concentrations
January 1 - August 31, 2025



**Calls for Service near Food Truck Concentrations
(Late Night Only)**

January 1 - August 31, 2025



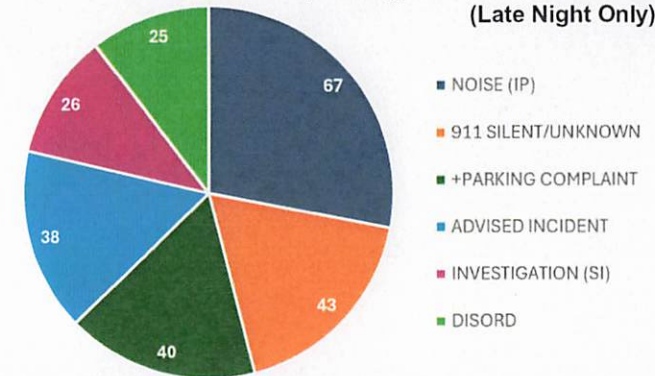
*Late Night represents 11pm – 4:59am

* Does not include Directed Patrols or Special Details

Scanning: Defining Exact “Problem”

- **Problem #1:** Disorder, Fighting, Traffic/Parking Concerns
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Top Call Types in Food Truck Zones
(Late Night Only)



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January 1 - August 31, 2025



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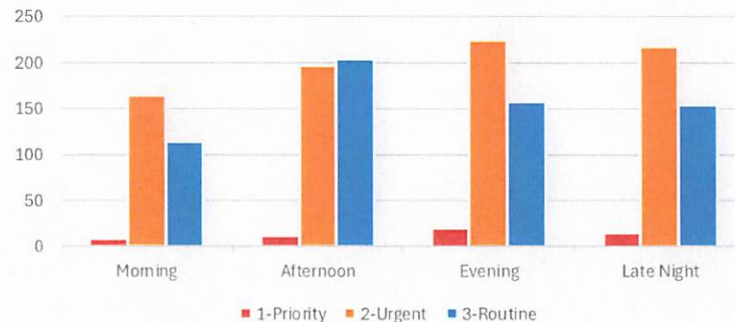
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What is Code Zero?*

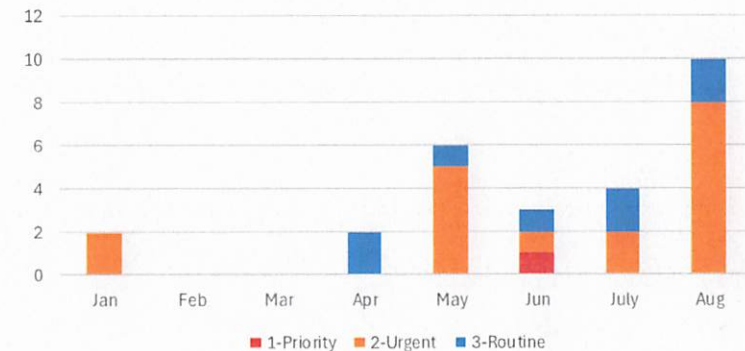
Code Zero is radio terminology that refers to “No Available Units”. It is not logged for all calls; some units will be directly assigned without relying on the automated-portion of CAD.

During Code Zero, a supervisor may choose to “pull” an officer from an active call or a surrounding beat, or let the call wait in a queue.

**Distribution of Caller-Generated CFS in Food Truck Zones
by Time of Day**
January 1 - August 31, 2025



Calls in Food Truck Zones at Code Zero* (Late Night Only)
January 1 – August 31, 2025



Late Night represents 11pm – 4:59am

Analysis: Understanding Factors

- **What:** Crowds, Disorder, Fighting, Traffic/Parking Concerns
- **Who:** Crowds and lack thereof place management
 - Other late-night joints have similar association with late-night crowds/disorder
- **Where:** Specific Zones where Food Trucks Concentrate
 - Heightened when adjacent to bars
- **When:** Late During and After Drinking Hours
 - Heightened at bar let-out
- **Why/Contributing Factors:** Public Space have no designated place manager
 - Example: For nuisance properties, land/business owner is expected to manage behavior in its dining room or parking lot.
 - Who manages a “dining space” in front of food trucks?

Response: Increase Restrictions and Enforcement

- **Response #1:** Heavier Parking Enforcement, generally
- **Response #2:** Restrict Hours of Operation of Food Trucks
- **Response #3:** Restrict Proximity to Liquor Establishments

Outputs: Increase in Citations and Warnings given to Food Truck Operators (after a few weeks -- to hit staff notes)

CFS with CITED or TOW Disposition in Food Truck Zones
January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025



Assessment: Effects of Food Truck Restrictions

Calls for Service in Food Truck Zones

January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025



Calls in W 4th Street Food Truck Zone, 11pm - 5am

	Last Year - Pre		During	Post	
	Sep-24	Aug-24		Sep-25	Oct-25
Priority	2	2	0	1	0
Urgent	15	16	22	12	19
Routine	16	22	19	21	16
Total Calls	33	40	41	34	35

Calls in Main Street Food Truck Zone, 11pm - 5am

	Pre		During	Post	
	Aug-24	Sep-24		Sep-25	Oct-25
Priority	1	1	3	0	1
Urgent	15	19	22	16	16
Routine	12	12	18	11	11
Total Calls	28	32	43	27	28

Calls in Findlay Food Truck Zone, 11pm - 5am

	Pre		During	Post	
	Aug-24	Sep-24		Sep-25	Oct-25
Priority	1	1	1	2	2
Urgent	7	4	12	11	12
Routine	3	2	5	5	5
Total Calls	11	7	18	18	19

Assessment: Effects of Food Truck Restrictions

- Overall, **moderate effect** on calls for service (measure of disorder), but **inconclusive on reported crime**
- Limitations**
 - Imprecise Measures: No good way of measuring crime/CFS are associated with food trucks
 - Multiple Concurrent Responses: Reduction caused by these restrictions and not other responses
 - Lack of Time for Effect: Less than 2 months since enacted

Reported Crime in Food Truck Zones					
	Pre		Before	Post	
	Aug-24	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
W 4th Street Zone	7	16	8	3	2
Main Street Zone	6	8	5	5	7
Findlay Zone	1	8	8	7	7
Total Calls	14	32	21	15	16

* Most of these offenses are Thefts from Auto or Auto Theft, as this has been a hot spot area

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Questions?

Cincinnati Police Department

Captain David Schofield

Dr. Jillian Desmond