

Small businesses foster economic development, create jobs, and support local communities. Policymakers should support small businesses by cutting red tape, streamlining processes, and reducing the cost of launching and expanding a business. The following reforms would have a huge impact on the small business community!

Streamline Zoning Requirements

- Many businesses that would like to open and expand in Chicago must obtain special use permits because their businesses do not fall within specific zoning designations. The process is antiquated and costly, hurting local entrepreneurs who can least afford the delays and money needed to navigate the process.
- An ordinance should be enacted that eliminates the need for businesses to obtain outdated special use permits so long as objective criteria protect residents, and the safety and integrity of neighborhoods.

Improve Processes

- City inspections should be improved to ensure they are done in a consistent manner. This will provide small businesses with more certainty.
- Chicago conducts debt checks when entrepreneurs are seeking a business license. These debt checks can involve small, far-removed debts the city has not attempted to collect. They can also be inaccurate. The City should no longer delay the issuance of business licenses because of these debt checks.
- The Department of Buildings should offer both online and paper options for sign permits. The Department should provide business owners with an advocate to ensure they receive a uniform message from various departments and staff, and should empower that business owner with the power to intervene when undue delays interfere with their ability to open or operate.

Las pequeñas empresas fomentan el desarrollo económico, crean empleos y apoyan a las comunidades locales. Los responsables de formular políticas deben apoyar a las pequeñas empresas reduciendo la burocracia, simplificando los procesos y disminuyendo el costo de iniciar y expandir un negocio en Chicago. ¡Las siguientes reformas tendrían un gran impacto en la comunidad de pequeñas empresas!

Simplificar los Requisitos de Zonificación

- Muchas empresas que desean abrirse y expandirse en Chicago deben obtener permisos de uso especial porque sus negocios no encajan dentro de designaciones de zonificación específicas. El proceso es anticuado y costoso, lo que perjudica a los emprendedores locales que menos pueden afrontar las demoras y el dinero necesarios para navegarlo.
- Debe promulgarse una ordenanza que elimine la necesidad de que las empresas obtengan permisos de uso especial obsoletos, siempre que criterios objetivos protejan a los residentes y la seguridad e integridad de los vecindarios.

Mejorar Procesos

- Las inspecciones municipales deben mejorarse para garantizar que se realicen de manera coherente. Esto brindará mayor certeza a las pequeñas empresas.
- Chicago realiza verificaciones de deuda cuando los emprendedores solicitan una licencia comercial. Estas verificaciones pueden involucrar deudas pequeñas y antiguas que la ciudad no ha intentado cobrar, e incluso pueden ser inexactas. La Ciudad no debería seguir retrasando la emisión de licencias comerciales debido a estas verificaciones de deuda.
- El Departamento de Edificios debe ofrecer opciones tanto en línea como en papel para los permisos de señalización. El Departamento también debe proporcionar a los propietarios de negocios un defensor que asegure que reciban un mensaje uniforme de los distintos departamentos y del personal, y debe facultar a ese defensor con la autoridad para intervenir cuando retrasos injustificados interfieran con la apertura o el funcionamiento del negocio.

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Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago
Edgewater Chamber of Commerce
Edison Park Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bridgeport & South Loop Chamber of Commerce
Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Innovation Metropolis SMART Tech District
Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship
Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce
Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce
Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce
Little Village Chamber of Commerce
Logan Square Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Women Business Owners, Chicago Chapter
New Covenant Community Development Corporation
North Lawndale Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation
Polish American Chamber of Commerce
Pulaski Elston Business Association
Quad Communities Development Corporation
Rogers Park Business Alliance
Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce
Six Corners Association
South East Chicago Commission
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Uptown Chamber of Commerce
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