

Small Business Program: Obstacles Identified by Small Businesses

City of Austin, Economic Development Department Small Business Program February 9, 2015

Home Occupations Issues

Parking

- Teaching at residence (e.g. home-schooling groups) music lessons, etc. – limited to 3 vehicular trips per day
- Weekly meetings for agents, etc.

Advertising

• Why are certain medias not allowed? (i.e. newspaper, tv, radio)

Billing

• Confusion about allowable payment methods/Need clarification

Consumable Goods/Kitchen Requirements

- Cottage Food Production Operations
- Revisit if can be expanded

Mobile Businesses (Not Food Trailers)

Currently Allowed

Pet Services, Hairdresser/Nail Salon (Personal Services Use)

Suggest looking at expanding to include such uses as:

• Mobile Car Wash, Mobile Mechanic, etc.

Currently storage allowed in mobile retail establishment

- Suggest allowing some storage of materials in the garage or accessory building at the residence
- Define amount and type of stored materials

Expired Permits

Businesses are being penalized by issues of expired permits from the previous tenant.

- Very time consuming and costly for the new tenant
- Delays the Small Business from being able to move forward in a timely manner

Parking Requirements

Small businesses have expressed that required parking is excessive depending on the area they are located and for small offices that attract few or no customers.