



Supporting Small Businesses: Restaurants

City of Tacoma | Community & Economic Development

Economic Development Committee
April 8, 2025



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OVERVIEW



- The restaurant industry plays a vital role in Tacoma's economy and cultural identity.
- Opening and operating a food business in Tacoma involves navigating a complex ecosystem of permitting, regulatory approvals, and infrastructure readiness.
- Today's discussion centers the voices of local restaurant owners who will share their experiences with City and partner processes.

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Panelists



Hailey Hernandez
Sidepiece Kitchen



Jan Parker
Jan Parker Cookery,
Reyna Filipina Kitchen



Buddy Brown
Buddy's Chicken & Waffles



Phil Panagos
Shakabrah Java

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Panelist Questions

Built Environment:

- What has been your experience with the City's permitting process?
- What support or resources were most helpful?
- What challenges or barriers did you face in obtaining building permits?

Regulatory Environment:

- What has been your experience working with regulatory agencies (City, TPCHD, etc.)?
- Were there particular offices or steps that were helpful?
- What barriers did you encounter?

Time Permitting:

- If there was one thing you could ask of local government to better support your business, what would it be?

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