



Jonathan Mintz
Commissioner

42 Broadway
8th Floor
New York, NY 10004

nyc.gov/consumers

October 17, 2013

Via email: [REDACTED]

Re: **Stoop Line Stand Smaller Than Four Feet Wide**

Dear [REDACTED]

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") sends this letter in response to your email asking whether you may obtain a license for a stoop line stand that is smaller than four feet wide. The short answer to your question is yes.

The City of New York Administrative Code, Section 20-237, states that a stoop line stand "shall not exceed seven feet in height." Additionally, a stoop line stand "shall be maintained wholly within the stoop line and shall not obstruct the free use of the sidewalk by pedestrians. Stoop line stands shall not exceed ten feet in length nor four feet in width, except . . . [w]here the sidewalk in front of the premises is at least sixteen feet wide, such stoop line stand may extend up to ten feet in length and five feet in width as long as a straight, unobstructed pathway of at least nine and one-half feet is maintained at all times on the sidewalk in front of the entire length of the premises where such stoop line stand is located." Thus, while the law generally does not allow a stoop line stand to be larger than the measurements given in Section 20-237, it does not prevent the use of a smaller stand.

You should be aware that the Rules of the City of New York ("RCNY") do not allow the DCA to grant a license for stoop line stands that, when measured in distance from the building where the property is located, would take up "more than one-third [of] the entire width of the sidewalk" (6 RCNY §2-70.2[b]), regardless of how small the stand may be.

Finally, we recommend that you contact the Department of Transportation, which enforces rules related to sidewalk obstructions generally, to determine whether a stand is actually allowed on your street.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]