



KNOCKING DOWN

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# BARRIERS TO BUSINESS

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IN FORT WORTH

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**Introduction**

**Barriers to Business: A 20-City Report**

**Key Findings for Fort Worth**

**Recommendations for Reform**

**Q & A**

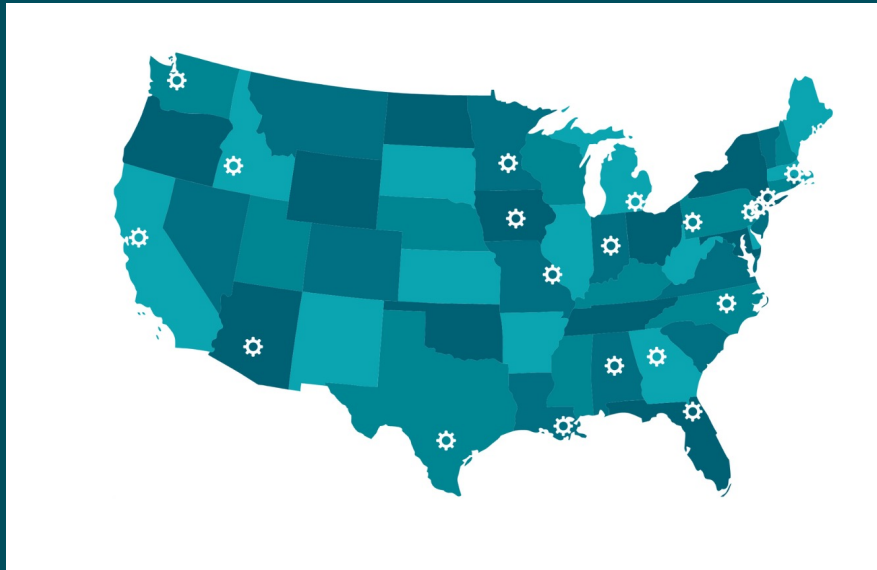
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# CITIES WORK

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# Barriers to Business

# HOW CITIES CAN PAVE A CHEAPER, FASTER, AND SIMPLER PATH TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP



## 5 Common Businesses

- **Restaurant**
- **Retail Store**
- **Barbershop**
- **Food Truck**
- **Home-Based Tutoring**

# Barriers to Business

HOW CITIES CAN PAVE A CHEAPER, FASTER,  
AND SIMPLER PATH TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## COST



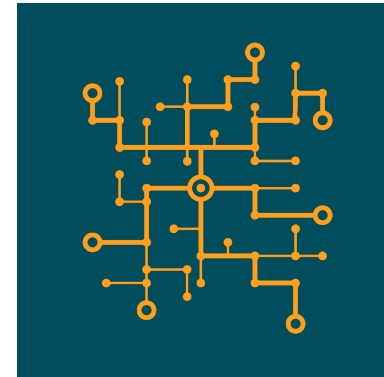
**\$5,300 ACROSS 13  
FEES TO START A  
RESTAURANT**

## DELAYS



**MOST CITIES LACK  
ONE-STOP SHOPS**

## COMPLEXITY



**55 STEPS & 8 DIFFERENT  
AGENCIES TO OPEN A  
BARBERSHOP**



# FORT WORTH FINDINGS

## OVERALL

- Business licensing is simple
- One-stop shop score: 1 / 5
- Some regulations may make it costly, confusing, and time-consuming to open a restaurant in Fort Worth
- Conditional zoning may pose a high barrier to entry for many entrepreneurs
- Home-based businesses are strictly regulated



“

I'M TRYING TO DO ALL  
THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT I  
DON'T KNOW

TINA HOWARD, OWNER OF **LEAVES** AND **STIR CRAZY BAKED GOODS**



# ONE-STOP SHOP ANALYSIS



Does the website connect city requirements with process from other levels of government, such as corporate registration?



Can an applicant complete most forms and registrations through a single online portal, rather than in person or through different agencies websites?



Does the website provide sufficient information on all requirements for starting a business, such as zoning, not just for getting a license or permit?



Does the website have a user-friendly, single log-in opportunity so applicants can organize information and track progress in one location?



Does the website guide entrepreneurs through the process effectively with helpful, step-by-step guides?





**BIG BUSINESSES HAVE  
THE MONEY AND TIME  
TO DO EVERYTHING...  
SMALL BUSINESSES  
DON'T.**

JUAN RODRIGUEZ, OWNER OF **MAGDALENA'S**

# STARTING A RESTAURANT IN FORT WORTH



TOTAL COST:  
\$4,250



NUMBER OF  
FEES: 21



IN-PERSON  
ACTIVITIES: 8



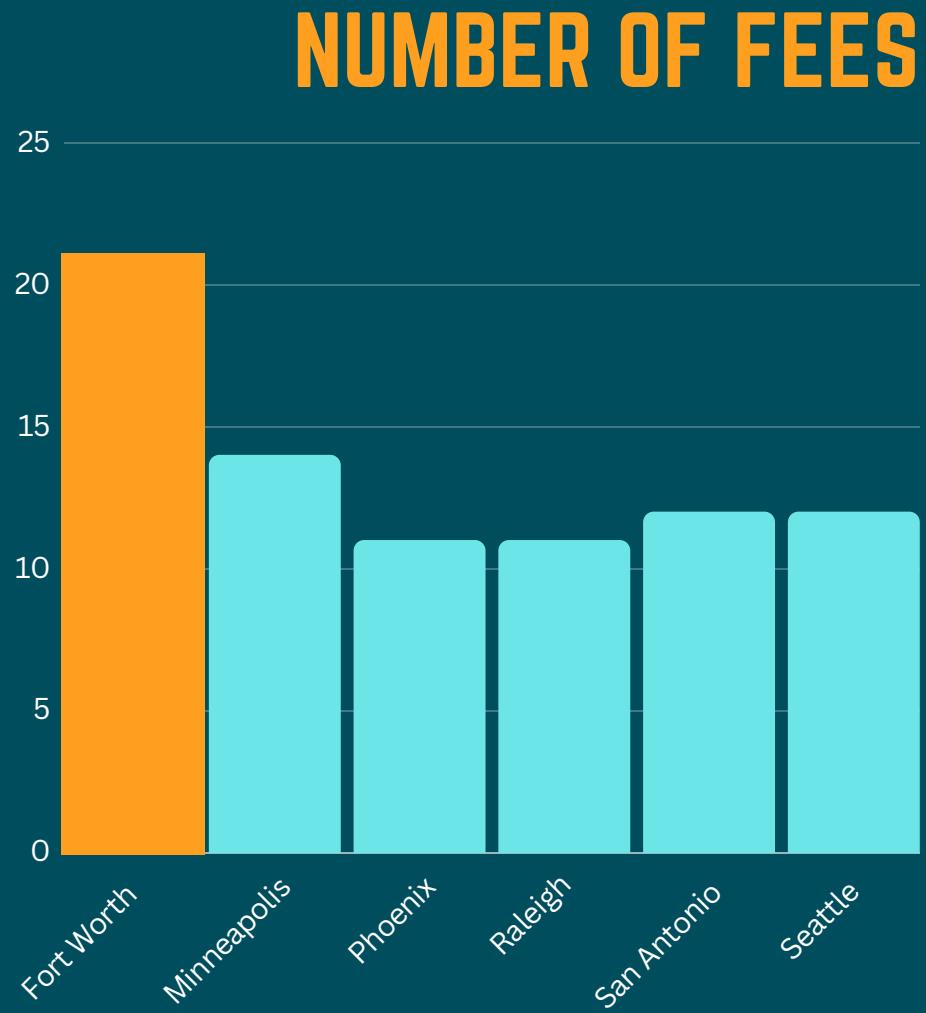
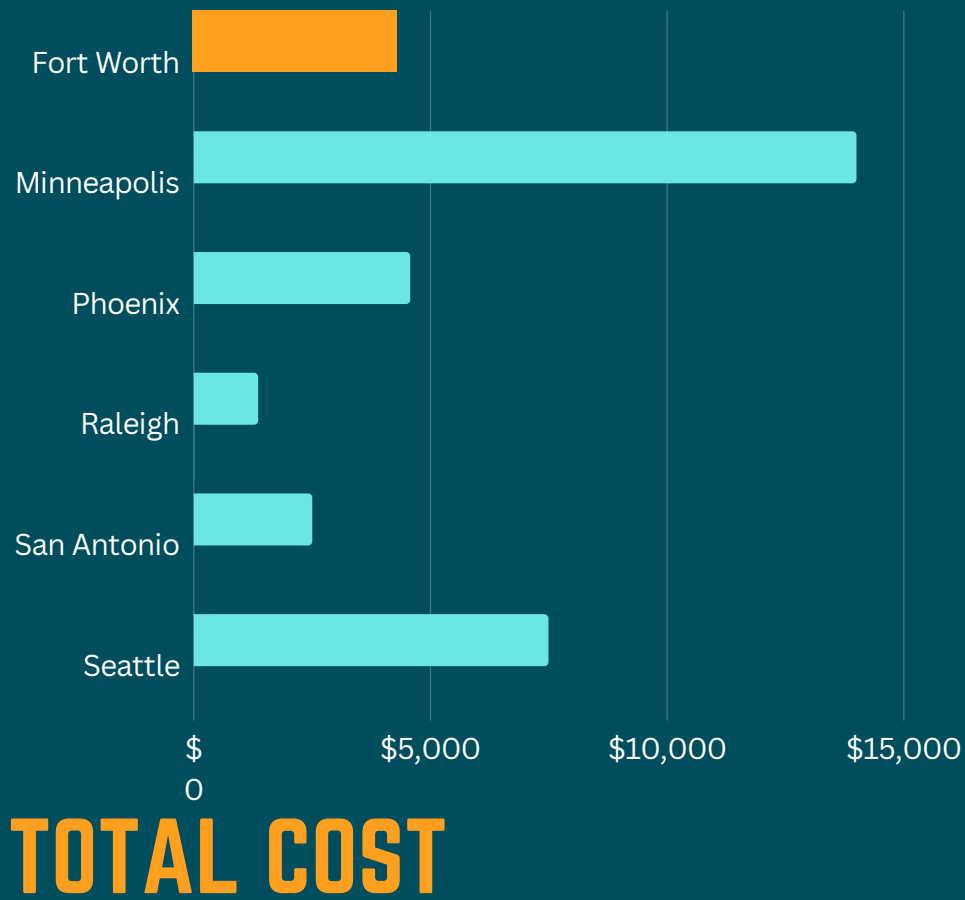
AGENCIES  
INVOLVED: 9



NUMBER OF  
FORMS: 18



NUMBER OF  
STEPS: 63



“ IT SEEMS LIKE THERE’S A FEE  
FOR EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. IF  
IT WASN’T FOR THE PEOPLE THAT  
HELPED SUPPORT US, I WOULD  
NOT HAVE VENTURED OUT ON MY  
OWN FOR FEAR THAT I COULDN’T  
AFFORD TO DO IT.

KATRINA CARPENTER, OWNER OF **CARPENTER'S CAFE & CATERING**

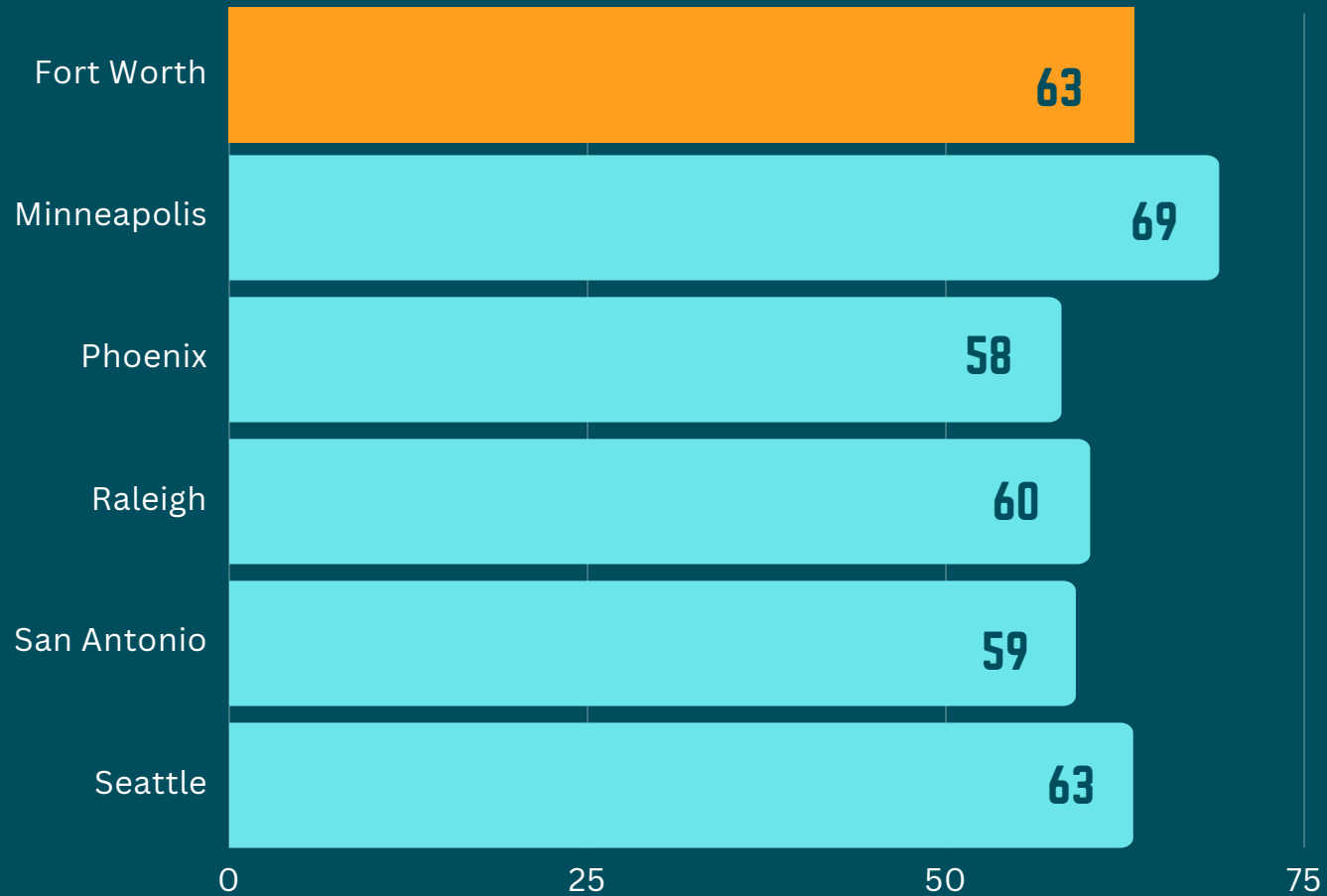




# NUMBER OF FORMS



# NUMBER OF STEPS





“

**I WAS MORE THAN  
WILLING TO EXPLAIN  
EVERYTHING, BUT NO  
ONE WOULD LISTEN**

MATTHIJS MELCHOIRS, OWNER OF MEL/ARCH



# CONDITIONAL ZONING

## ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

- Zoning Change Application fee: \$1,200
- Site Plan Review fee: \$800
- It can take up to 6 months for a public hearing to be scheduled
- Expedited review doubles the fee
- X-Team: Wonderful tool, but at \$1,000 per hour is inaccessible to many entrepreneurs





# HOME-BASED BUSINESSES

- Only 1 non-resident employee allowed without City Council approval
- All advertising - both on and off-site - is prohibited
- Direct sales from the home are prohibited
- Unclear rules on how many clients may visit the home




“

**FORT WORTH IS A BIG CITY THAT  
IS TRYING TO GROW UNDER THE  
RULES OF A SMALL TOWN...  
THOSE RULES ARE SO  
RESTRICTING THAT WE'RE NOT  
ONLY BURSTING, WE'RE BREAKING  
AT THE SEAMS.**

DANA SCHULTES, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AT **STAGE WEST**





**"IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO  
YOU KNOW, WHICH  
SHOULDN'T HAPPEN IN  
THE 12TH LARGEST CITY  
IN THE COUNTRY."**

HENRY ABUTO, OWNER OF **WASONGA TO-GO**

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM

**HOW TO MAKE IT CHEAPER, FASTER, AND SIMPLER TO DO BUSINESS IN FORT WORTH**

## CHEAPER



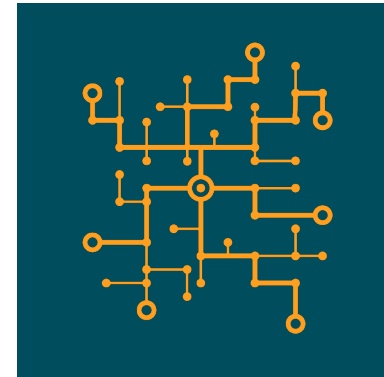
- REDUCE FEES AND PENALTIES
- PARE BACK C.U.P. PROCESS

## FASTER



- CREATE A TRUE ONE-STOP SHOP
- MORE COMPREHENSIVE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES

## SIMPLER



- STREAMLINE PERMITTING
- CONSOLIDATE DUPLICATIVE PAPERWORK



# QUESTIONS?



We're here  
to help!

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