

November 13, 2012

As a frequent customer of the DC food truck scene I've been elated at the diversity, the community and the enthusiasm I've seen as part of the DC environment since food trucks first came on the scene.

The new DC regulations treating food trucks like portable sidewalk cafes is deeply threatening to this entire industry, one which has brought a good reputation to DC and its food scene.

Moreover, the frequent food trucks are the reason I go away from my local cafeteria to visit other businesses. The current 10 ft sidewalk exclusion proposed by the DC council would effectively eliminate this massively popular business enterprise.

I am all for the regulation of food trucks, but the regulations created need to be sensitive to the business ideas and actual roles of food trucks. Regulating them like sidewalk cafes means that they will forever be tied to the graciousness of the council in allowing them areas where they could operate. Instead of creating one rule which requires immediate granting of exemptions in popular areas like Franklin and Farragut Square, I urge the council to set these regulations aside and come up with new rules which directly take into account the food truck business model and don't take away the delectable diversity of dining options that they provide. The food trucks are responsible for my coming out to patronize local businesses when the food trucks aren't there. Shutting them down means taking that money away not just from the food trucks, but from the brick and mortar stores nearby.

Please, don't regulate the food trucks out of existence. Eliminate the 10 ft rule and create new smart regulations which would allow food trucks to operate.

Best,

Bradley Hague
Ward 6 resident