

November 9, 2012

As a resident, voter and taxpayer of the District of Columbia, I write to express concern of proposed rules governing the locations at which licensed food vendors may operate. I understand there has been ongoing debate recently over how these vendors operate, but today I am concerned about the ten-foot rule currently proposed.

I work in an office building that overlooks Franklin Square, one of the prime vending locations which would be impacted due to the proposed rule limiting food trucks from operating in areas where less than ten feet of unobstructed sidewalk exists. Every day, there are flocks of office workers gathering in the park to eat outside, during nice weather, or during poor weather to grab a bite and head back inside.

I very rarely, if ever, frequent the food trucks, but I see the large net positive to society that these food trucks have enabled. This park has long been underutilized, but now has become a frequent source of communal gathering, entertainment, even yoga, due in large part to the crowds that gather during lunch.

While these crowds do, for a few hour period each afternoon, make traversing the park and the surrounding area somewhat more difficult, the net positive hugely outweighs the mild inconvenience of the crowds, which can be avoided simply by crossing the street in any direction.

I think DDOT does an excellent job across its myriad responsibilities, but promises of future waivers are insufficient when they could be revoked for any reason, and the underlying law is nonsensical. Please reconsider this proposed rule and allow the food trucks to continue to operate as they currently do.

Sincerely,  
Christian Richards