

November 9, 2012

Please accept these comments on the proposed rule regarding where food truck vendors may provide service.

My name is Nick Donohue and I am a resident of the District. I am writing to express my concerns the proposed regulations as written as I believe they would effectively prohibit food truck service from the vast majority of downtown.

The rationale for the limiting food truck service to areas with a sidewalk width of at least 10 feet is well intentioned but comes with many consequences. The goal, as I understand it, of this provision is to ensure that there is sufficient space on the sidewalk for folks to wait for food and allow others to walk by unobstructed. Again a laudable goal but when you consider the outcome more it becomes laughable.

I work in proximity to Farragut Square - one of the areas where food truck service would be on an approved basis. The people that use the food trucks are the same people that you are trying to 'protect' by ensuring we have plenty of sidewalk space to walk. Let me say this differently - to give me space on the sidewalk in Farragut Square you are going to take away the main reason I walk in Farragut Square. Sounds perverse in my opinion.

Further the regulation ignores the fact that there are sidewalks on the other side of the street and inside the Square. So if you are a pedestrian in the area and must have unobstructed path you can simply cross the street. This is what I do. Other times I walk through the park.

Please do not act as if the denizens of this fine city are not smart enough to figure out these 'problems'.

I urge DDOT to revise the regulations and inject some common sense into the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Nick Donohue
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