

November 12, 2012

For the first year of marriage, my wife and I sacrificed everything we had to open our food truck in this wonderful city. We moved from my home in New Jersey, to stay with my in-laws in DC, worked very hard and saved every penny we could. It was our dream and we were dedicated.

Living in your parents' basement for a year just to open a business is sacrifice enough. But putting every cent you have into one is a risk, but a risk one should still be able to take in this country and have a good chance at succeeding, granted good business sense and lots of hard work.

Our truck, Meatball Nation, just opened 9 days ago. We absolutely love it. We have gotten wonderful feedback as have all food trucks in DC. They are a prized commodity in this economy, creating hundreds of jobs every year, paying taxes, and truly contributing to the economic and social welfare of this city.

The proposed regulations do not seem to meet any sort of common sense reasoning. The fact that there should be a 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk (vague at that) when a restaurant can have outdoor seating and only adhere to a 6 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule. How is this fair at all? I would love to hear any solid and intelligent reason behind this. This regulation could make 80% of our spots become illegal. Why put people who have worked and earned their right to run a business and try to merely make a living, out? Why put them under?

There are a few restaurants that started off as a food truck, and became a brick and mortar in DC, all possible only through their first step-a food truck. This is our plan as it is many others' too. A food truck is a stepping stone to business GROWTH, ultimately contributing to DC economy.

Please Mayor Gray, please do not put nearly a thousand people out of work. Please don't adhere to purse strings or pressure. Please use your conscience and do the right thing. I believe you can.

Regards,

Julian and Lauren Rizzo  
Meatball Nation