

November 11, 2012

Dear Mr. Gil,

I am writing to forward my comments, as a member of the public, against the proposed vending regulations for food trucks (DC Vending Regs).

The proposed regulations requiring that food trucks not vendor from a space with sidewalk space less than 10 feet wide in the Central Business District is unfair to vendors and to their customers. In my opinion, these regulations appear to be an attempt, as the saying goes, "to fix a problem that isn't broken". More importantly, in a city where there are more critical quality of life issues to regulate, food truck vendor locations simply do not merit this level of regulation.

The food truck phenomenon in Washington continues to be an important player in promoting the city as a vibrant and energetic foodie destination. As a food truck patron, I am delighted by the range of food choices which are less than 10 minutes away from my office. On any given day, I can have spicy tacos or a tall bowl of pho from a food truck only a few minutes walk from my office. However, the requirements of the new regulations would eliminate all of the food truck parking locations closest to my office. As a result, every truck I visit would lose my business as a customer along with hundreds of others.

As a general rule, I have found both the food truck vendors and my fellow patrons are mindful of others walking on the sidewalk. Have you received any complaints about egress issues? It would be helpful to understand why the city government has used egress issues as their primary impetus to create these new regulations. If the proposed regulations go forward, I believe that the DC government would also send a critical message to small business entrepreneurs: The District of Columbia is not a small business friendly environment.

Finally, at some point, some of the current vendors may wish to expand their operations to a brick and mortar location. When they do, I am certain that the District of Columbia would like to be the first choice location for those new restaurants. In my opinion, the proposed vendor regulations would mark yet another step to cause those entrepreneurs to think about a location outside of the city instead.

I implore you to withdraw the proposed DC Vending Regulations.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Wright

The growth of the food truck community also demonstrates the city's support of small business entrepreneurs.