



**FOJOL BROS.**

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Mr. Helder Gil  
Legislative Affairs Specialist  
Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs  
1100 Fourth St SW  
Room 5164  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Gil,

I am a lifelong resident of Ward 1 and I started the first food truck in DC in this new movement of mobile restaurants and am proud to have inspired many of these new businesses. More residents & workers in the District now eat a wider array of foods and share precious free time in an outdoor eating environment, networking with their friends and colleagues. As stated by one of our followers in an interview during the first Curbside Cookoff, the lines waiting for food trucks are synonymous to a live social network. Eating from food trucks is now an integral part of the culinary cultural landscape of the District, with thousands of people enjoying and appreciating our service & quality on a daily basis. The people are going to resist a step backwards in this part of their life.

Mayor Gray's proposed vending regulations on Oct 5th, 2012 threaten what the people want in this city. While there are steps in the right direction, the following elements need to be renegotiated:

- 1.) No hour restrictions (i.e. need to have the right to sell 24 hours a day). The food business is challenging enough, especially in the competitive, low margin quick-service arena. We need to be able to sell whenever there is a market that wants to eat from us. In addition, there probably will be a pressure relief from downtown lunch business if food trucks can sell whenever they want (just like any other restaurant). Safety will also be increased because sober eyes and ears will be on the street.
- 2.) The sidewalk rule of 10' does not work as evidenced by the study of the FTA board. This can be managed by the food trucks to ensure safe, clear passage along the sidewalks.
- 3.) We need a better understanding of the MRV's with both sides at the table for the negotiation.

My final comment has to do with the licensing. Sole proprietorship model needs to change immediately. If my license holder gets sick, I am out of business. If my license holder goes to a competitor, I am out of business. If we are going to be taxed like a business, we need to be treated and legally recognized as one. Thanks for all your work.

Justin Vitarello  
fojol bros.