

November 10, 2012

Mr. Helder Gil, Legislative Affairs Specialist
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 Fourth Street, SW, Room 5164
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Gil:

I am an employee of Feelin' Crabby and I oppose the proposed food truck regulations. I have been working on the Feelin' Crabby truck for the past 14 months after I was laid off by a restaurant that went out of business. After one year, I was promoted to Food Truck Manager and am currently a licensed vendor in the District. I am concerned about my own future if the proposed regulations are put into effect. Our food truck needs to vend at popular locations where people congregate. The profit margin for our business is lean and requires volume to make any sense. It takes time for food truck operators together to develop vibrant food truck marketplaces like at L'enfant Plaza or Franklin Square. It is difficult for me to understand why the department would want to limit food trucks in these and other areas with arbitrary rules limiting food truck parking based on the width of the sidewalk.

I am also concerned about the proposed regulations and their impact on our customers. In many locations on our schedule there are very few lunch options other than food trucks. Why would the DC government want to limit choices and competition? It's hard to understand why the 10' and 7' restrictions are in the proposed rules unless the District is trying to get food trucks out of the most popular areas for consumers to purchase food truck fare. I know from my interaction with customers on a daily basis that we are making a positive difference in the lives of District residents and workers. Our regular customers have come to rely on us being at their location on the day of the week that we frequent their neighborhood. We bring revenue to the District through sales tax. If we aren't allowed to vend in popular locations many of our customers would bring their lunch to work and the District would receive nothing. While I understand the importance of public safety, I have trouble understanding what problem the District is trying to solve with the proposed regulations. In all the time that I have been on the truck, I have never seen any situation where citizens were in danger or where public safety was an issue.

The purpose of regulations is to protect public safety, ensure fair business practices and promote economic growth. I think that the department can come up with a revised version of these regulations to accurately reflect these principles.

Ultimately, the consumers win when food trucks are allowed to flourish. I hope that the Councilmembers and the Mayor will quickly revamp regulations to continue to allow the food service industry in DC to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Josh Mast
Food Truck Manager
Feelin' Crabby