



The Honorable Mary Cheh
City Council Member Ward 3
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The Honorable Jim Graham
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I was born and raised in Washington, DC with my roots in Ward 3 and currently residing in Ward 1. When I considered starting my own business, of course I wanted to do it in my hometown. In 2010 I opened a DC food truck called TaKorean serving Korean BBQ Tacos around different areas of our city. When we opened we employed three people full-time all District residents. We grew and matured our operation over the past two years and now just a few months ago we've opened a new fixed location in the new Union Market in Ward 5. TaKorean now employs 10 full-time employees in addition to up to 5 part-time employees.

We operate as a professional business. We pay DC's franchise tax of 10% on profits for corporations. We collect and remit sales tax of 10% each month. We rent kitchen space as a requirement of our health department regulations where through our rent we contribute to property taxes. We are committed to donating 1% of all of our sales to local charities and organizations. We contributed several thousands of dollars last year to organizations such as DC's Central Kitchen, The Anacostia Watershed Society, and The Potomac River Keeper.

My food truck pays the bills of up to 10 employees 7 of who are DC residents. My food truck has given me the ability to grow my business and contribute more to the DC community. Unfortunately, the new proposed regulations from Mayor Gray have the potential to damage the mobile vending industry completely.

By banning food trucks from any street side that has less than 10ft of unobstructed sidewalk space, the regulations would effectively eliminate food trucks from most of the Central Business District. Furthermore, the metrics are out of line with other businesses such as restaurants sidewalk café's, which only need 8ft and get exceptions all the time. Food trucks pose no permanent or semi-permanent obstruction to the sidewalk itself, while other

businesses do and get more favorable regulations. The agencies I've spoken with have shown no documented proof of transit obstruction, public safety risk, nor any other legitimate concern that would merit further regulations on food trucks. I'd like to work with the DC government to help make the streets safe, clean, and fun. In order to solve a problem there needs to be a proven documented problem first.

The proposed MRV locations have no outlined process or criteria for which DDOT will implement or manage these locations. I oppose the idea that the DDOT director can at will without any transparency, criteria, or appeal process, decide to limit or eliminate vending in certain areas. The process must be detailed and the mobile vending industry must have some protection in the process.

I would also like to see the hours of operation expand to those that fixed location businesses are allowed to keep. There is no reason that vendors shouldn't be able to serve late night, just as many restaurants do. Additionally, it makes areas safer where there are more eyes on the streets at night.

I like the idea of the 4-hour parking permit, however not being able to use it across the city would perpetuate the current struggles of mobile vendors. Additionally, the district should want vendors to spread out to new areas of the city, which presumably would result in less congestion in the high-density vending areas.

As a mobile vendor and fixed location business owner in DC I would encourage the Mayor to propose fair, balanced regulations, that reflect realistic documented concerns, and continues to allow the food truck industry in DC to be robust. I also support and helped draft the comments of the Food Truck Association.

Thank you for including the public in this process,

Mike Lenard

Owner / Operator – TaKorean Truck