

November 12, 2012

The proposed "10 Foot Rule" for the Mayor's new food truck regulations is not only highly discriminatory, but also shortsighted. I strongly hope it will be reassessed. While brick-and-mortar establishments will certainly appreciate the degree to which these regulations will limit the operation of food trucks, requiring trucks to operate only in areas with 10 feet of unobstructed sidewalk space will only deprive the District of valuable tax dollars.

Many existing restaurants are not only too cost-prohibitive for lunch, but they take too long to serve the needs of DC's hardworking public with limited time in the day for lunch. By denying food trucks the ability to operate, you will not transfer the tax dollars that they bring in to the restaurants. While some will be able to spend the extra time visiting brick and mortar restaurants, the overwhelming majority will instead simply bring their own lunches to work.

That the brick-and-mortar restaurants are only required six feet of sidewalk space to operate underlines the fact that public safety is not the top priority of these regulations; they exist rather to serve the narrow-minded interests of the business community. These regulations are not right for DC, and I hope you will reconsider.

Thank you,
Mike Crump