

The District • Downtown Community Improvement District
11 S. Tenth Street • Columbia, Missouri 65201 • (573) 442-6816
discoverthedistrict.com

May 20, 2019

Mayor and City Council
City of Columbia
701 East Broadway
P.O. Box 6015
Columbia, MO 65205

Dear Mayor Treece and City Council Members:

The Downtown Community Improvement District would like to provide support for increasing mobile food truck vending zones within The District. The current mobile vending initiative was initially approved in 2014 as a pilot program to evaluate the impact of allowing mobile food vending in non-restricted metered parking spaces in Downtown Columbia. The mobile food truck vending program has proven successful over the years.

We believe now is the proper time to expand the number of mobile food vending zones beyond the current three zones to further the realization of a Columbia street food culture and to assist Columbia's mobile food vending businesses in meeting growing consumer demand while respecting the operations of "brick and mortar" restaurants, bars serving food and retail stores.

To that end, we support the addition of the non-restricted metered parking spaces on Walnut Street (north side) between Seventh and Eighth Streets as a fourth mobile food truck vending zone. This fourth zone would be subject to the terms and conditions of Council Bill 100-14.

This zone would exclude metered parking spaces designated for handicapped parking as well as parking spaces that, if used by mobile vending trucks, could present as determined by the City a public safety hazard to pedestrians and/or vehicles.

We would also respectfully request that that current ordinance be updated as follows:

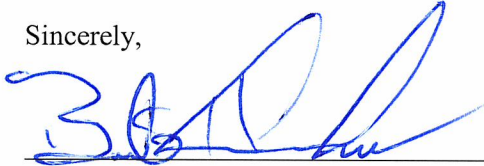
- Mobile food vending operations be prohibited within **100 feet** of any restaurant or bar that serves food, unless the mobile food vendor is otherwise provided **written consent by** the property or business owner. The current ordinance requires a distance of 300 feet.
 - Distance measurement to be defined by the City such as being measured from the food truck parking space to the closes corner of the impacted restaurant or bar serving food or to the front entrance of the business.
- City Staff variation in which the City is allowed to grant temporary exemptions to the ordinance due to street closures, construction and unplanned circumstances and situations.
- Mobile food vending trucks must not block any portion of another business(es) window or storefront during the business(es) hours of operation.

- Exemptions would be if the impacted business(es) specifically requests the food truck vendor park in front of their location(s).
- Mobile food truck vendor must secure written approval from any impacted property or business owner.
- Mobile food truck must only service the patrons of the private property business(es) allowing the parking of the mobile food truck so as not to impact surrounding businesses.

Please know that the Downtown Community Improvement District will continue to work very closely with Ms. Christian and her team at the Transit & Parking Department in regards to this requested fourth mobile food vending zone on Walnut Street as well as any additional zones that may be contemplated in the future.

I thank you for your kind consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Bob Hohenstein
DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Executive Director

cc: David Nichols
Leah Christian
Sheela Amin
Deb Sheals