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VIA EMAIL

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Ms. Linda Roberts
Ms. Amy Duncan Lingo
City of Minneapolis – Community Planning
and Economic Development
350 South Fifth Street
Room 1 City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Minnesota Food Truck Association Response to Proposed Ordinance Revision

Dear Linda and Amy:

On behalf of the Minnesota Food Truck Association, the purpose of this letter is to provide the Association's input on the proposed ordinance amendment to Title 10, Chapter 188 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Food Code: Administration and Licensing.

We understand that the new ordinance will permit gatherings of up to three food trucks in connection with farmer's markets and certain other gatherings and events outside of "downtown." We enthusiastically support the initiative (in fact, we are of the opinion that the number of trucks allowed at such gatherings should not be limited to three, but understand the Committee's interest in seeing how it works with three initially) and would also encourage the Committee's considering expanding the opportunity to include downtown parking lots.

As an Association, we are trying to expand the footprint for food trucks in response to consumer and customer demand and the interest in increasing the vibrancy of downtown (as well as other, outlying, city centers). Right now in Minneapolis food trucks are more or less limited to operating on the street at lunch and doing special events. Unfortunately, because of the various provisions of applicable ordinances, food trucks generally can't find a reasonable place to vend at night in the areas where people gather downtown. There's a great demand for food trucks downtown at night, but the combination of restrictions prevents them from being able to vend in any of the viable locations. We think that there are a number of ways in which we could expand the availability of food trucks without interfering with the interests of other constituencies such as restaurants, pedestrians, orderly traffic flow and the like, which would make the streets safer and more vibrant at night. It could also enable a more orderly evacuation of downtown after the

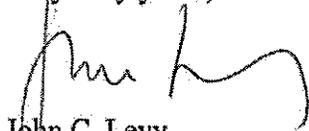
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bars close and contribute to reducing the incidence of drinking related problems. But we recognize that those initiatives are probably better postponed for the time being. I am simultaneously communicating these issues and concerns as a participant in the Hospitality Zone Assessment being conducted by the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District.

In the meantime, I'd like to emphasize the fact that our food truck community has been a responsible participant in City initiatives and that there are lots of opportunities to expand access to food trucks in a manner which won't unduly interfere with other interests. This is what our customers are constantly asking us to do and we want to keep a voice in the process because I think we all have a lot to gain in terms of enhancing the vibrancy of our city. I think the food trucks' operations over the last few years have been a tremendous success and the Association has gone to a great deal of effort to be a positive contributor to city life. We continue to grow our presence carefully and respectfully, creating lots of new businesses, jobs and tax base. And to my knowledge, there haven't been any significant issues with the operation of the trucks.

Please let me know if the Association can be of any further assistance in considering the ordinance revisions.

Very truly yours,



John C. Levy
President, Minnesota Food Truck Association