



Louisiana Restaurant Association

2700 N. Arnoult Road • Metairie LA 70002-5916 • (504)454-2277 • FAX (504)454-2299

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Stacy Head
President, New Orleans City Council
City Hall, Room 2W40
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear President Head,

On behalf of the Louisiana Restaurant Association Greater New Orleans Chapter, I want to commend you and your colleagues on the significant progress that has been made regarding the updates to the mobile food vending ordinance.

As previously stated, our primary issues were food safety, sanitation and proximity. During the Council's discussion process and in discussion with the Department of Health and Hospitals, it appears that our concerns specific to food safety and sanitation are being addressed. Including accessibility of restrooms for mobile food vendor employees addresses a significant sanitation concern.

However, as we shared with you and the other members of the Council, proximity to fixed operation restaurants remains a concern to us and at no time have we felt a one hundred (100) foot limit to be acceptable. In your April 5 letter to me, you referenced a series of amendments that we are working on with other Council members. To our knowledge, the remaining issue is the determination of proximity and the initial measurement point. It is accurate only that we have spoken with other members of the Council relative to modifying the proposed proximity in the final ordinance.

We would submit that a three hundred (300) foot proximity would be more acceptable to addressing our industry's concerns and the beginning point of measure is the property line at the street or curb. This measurement is consistent with the restroom agreement and if the mobile vendor can gain written permission from an operator within the 300 feet, the proximity limit is waived.

As we have stated before, the LRA is not conceptually opposed to mobile food vendors, but believe an evaluative and discussion process is necessary to develop the standards that are easy to understand, and enforce, and addresses the concerns we have stated throughout the process.

Sincerely,

Paul Rotner
President, LRA Greater New Orleans Chapter

cc: Councilmember At Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Councilmember Susan G. Guidry
Councilmember LaToya Cantrell
Councilmember Kristen Gisleson Palmer
Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Councilmember James A. Gray