

CHARLOTTE FOOD TRUCK ASSOCIATION

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Charlotte Food Trucks To Respond to City's Food-Truck Proposal Trucks Team Up With National and State Advocacy Organizations

Charlotte, NC—Today, the Charlotte Food Truck Association will respond to Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department's food-truck proposal at the Citizen Advisory Group meeting at 6 pm. The association will be joined by representatives from the Institute for Justice and Action NC.

"We applaud the city for its efforts to update its laws on food trucks, but we also want to be heard. So far, the Citizen Advisory Group has not taken a majority of the concerns of food trucks into account," said David Stuck, owner of Tin Kitchen food truck and TK Cafe.

The city of Charlotte is currently updating its food-truck laws. The city's current proposal would ban food trucks from operating within 100 feet from the entrance to any eating, drinking, entertainment establishment, or restaurant, nightclub, or bar, require food trucks to receive a special permit from the city to gather in groups larger than four, and require trucks to purchase a permit for every three locations where they plan to operate. The proposal would also prohibit food trucks from working in residential neighborhoods, even with the permission of the owner, and restrict food trucks from serving businesses that are not in officially zoned office parks.

Yesterday, the Charlotte Food Truck Association met with the Institute for Justice and Action NC. The Institute for Justice is a public interest civil liberties law firm that advocates in the courts of law and public opinion on behalf of entrepreneurs. The Institute has successfully challenged vending laws in El Paso and Atlanta. IJ is suing the city of Chicago over its prohibition on food trucks operating within 200 feet of any brick-and-mortar restaurant. IJ is also working with dozens of food-truck groups across the country to reform laws at the local level, outside of the courtroom.

Action NC is a grassroots community organization that empowers low to moderate-income communities to take action and win. Supporting entrepreneurs is a major part of the organization's work. Action NC has been working together with food truck owners in Charlotte since 2010.

The Charlotte Food Truck Association, a group of more than 50 food-truck owners, wants to bring delicious, gourmet food to everyone in the city. To do so, the association is working with Charlotte officials to change the city's regulations to allow food trucks greater freedom to work on public and private property while protecting the public's health and safety.

"Food trucks employ local people and provide jobs. The city ought to be praising these risk taking entrepreneurs, not pushing them out of business," said Hector Vaca, Charlotte Director of Action NC.

"Food trucks provide enormous benefits to the communities in which they operate. They help keep the streets safe, provide affordable and healthy meal options, enrich the local culinary scene, and increase foot traffic for nearby restaurants and other brick-and-mortar establishments," said Melinda Haring, activism manager at the Institute for Justice.

The Charlotte Food Truck Association invites the public, restaurants and food-truck owners to sign its public petition, which urges the Charlotte City Council to give food trucks greater ability to serve customers throughout the city: <http://www.charlottefoodtrucks.org/>