



February 4, 2022

Naperville City Council
City of Naperville
400 South Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540

RE: Mobile Vending Regulation

Dear Council Members,

The Downtown Naperville Alliance (DNA) urges the City Council to regulate mobile food and merchandise vendors on private property in downtown.

Several years ago, following a vendor request for a mobile hot dog cart on the Riverwalk and extensive discussions with downtown stakeholders, the City enacted regulations for mobile food vending on public property. Since its adoption, Section 3-7-11 has provided appropriate regulation of mobile food vending on public property. During those early discussions and since the adoption of the ordinance, DNA has, along with the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Naperville Development Partnership, consistently advocated on behalf of downtown "brick and mortar" restaurants. On January 4, Council directed staff to seek DNA's opinion about mobile food vending on private property.

On February 2, by unanimous vote, the DNA Management Council voted to support regulations to limit mobile vendors (both food and other merchandise) on private property in downtown. In addition to current provisions under Section 3-7-11, the DNA requests that mobile vending licenses be restricted to special events and awarded on a finite basis – perhaps 3 business days per year.

While we agree that, in limited circumstances, mobile vendors can add to the flavor and ambiance of our downtown, we are mindful of many unintended consequences without adequate regulation. Accessibility, parking, appearance, taxation, noise, sanitation and odor management all need careful consideration. More importantly, we must be vigilant about the interests and expectations of the existing businesses, particularly food and beverage businesses, that have made significant investments in their facilities and year-round operations.

Our downtown food and beverage operators have faced historic challenges in recent years. Please do not worsen their chances for recovery by allowing food trucks to start flowing into town.

We thank you for allowing us to submit our perspective and for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Coyne
Chairperson of the Board

Danielle Tufano
Executive Director

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