

To: City Clerk/Toronto City Council Members
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Toronto ON M5H 2N2

June 25, 2018

Re: LS26.2 - Extension for Stationary Food Trucks (R55 Curb Lane Vending Permits)

We are feaSTO and have been a Mobile Food Truck in Toronto since 2014. We love our city, we love the street food vending culture R54 Mobile Trucks have created, and we respectfully suggest that there should be no more extensions granted on the grandfathering of R55 Curb Lane Vending Permits for the following reasons:

1. R55 permit holders are able to get R54 permits and continue to operate as they always have, selling the same food, in the same truck, once the grandparenting ends in 2020. The only difference is they will then have to adhere to R54 permit bylaws, which are currently already governing over 50 mobile trucks.
2. The decision was already made in 2015 by City Council and put into Municipal Code 740 to end grandparenting on December 31, 2020. Nothing has changed in the street food bylaws since then to invalidate the above decision.
3. The first extension for grandfathered R55 permits was granted in 1999, extended to 2016, extended to 2020 (21 years total.) If this motion is passed, they will have been granted a total of 33 years of extensions.
4. The three main goals for street vending from City Council since the A la Cart Program, as well as the Street Food Working Group which informed Municipal Code 740 were:
 - a. To introduce healthy, ethnically diverse food
 - b. Develop a street food vending culture
 - c. Harmonize the regulatory framework across the city

If all food trucks obtain the same R54 permits, these goals will finally be accomplished, and the two-tiered system will be over.

5. In the May 31, 2018 action report from MLS, it specifically states that *'The grand parenting provision in the bylaw was meant to provide time for the industry to adapt and for staff to work with these vendors to assist with the transition to the new model'* – We urge City Council to treat these extensions as was intended by MLS – a transition period.
6. Change is inevitable and it should be up to individual business owners to decide whether they are willing to continue to operate in a free market governed by shifts in consumer tastes, and not by continual protection of business certainty for from City Council.
7. Multiple media outlets have reached out on this issue (Metro Morning, CBC News, BlogTO), and it is loud and clear that the people of Toronto would like to see fresh, new options for street food in downtown Toronto.

Sincerely,
Ada Mok & Cameron Pounder
feaSTO Food Truck