



City Councillor
Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University–Rosedale

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Dear colleagues,

Summary

For more than 10 years, a small number of for-profit food truck operators have been permitted, under a grandfathered R 55 food truck license, to permanently occupy public road space for a very small fee, something no other mobile food vendor is permitted to do in Toronto. Almost all of these trucks are located in Ward 11, in highly desirable food truck locations on the University of Toronto campus. Would-be competitors have thereby been excluded from these locations, limiting opportunities for other small businesses and limiting food choices for students, staff and faculty.

Since 2018, Municipal Code 740 has explicitly provided that these R55 permits would expire automatically and without further notice on December 31, 2026. Staff are now proposing to indefinitely extend this exemption, but have given no credible reason for doing so. Competing food vendors are right to object. It is time for this small group of privileged permit holders to comply with the same rules that apply to all other food vendors in Toronto. They have had 10 years' notice, and that is enough.

Recommendation:

I therefore request that you delete recommendation 3, so that the R55 permits will expire as scheduled December 31, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Saxe". The letters are fluid and cursive.

Councillor Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University–Rosedale