FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Jonathan Brostoff (414) 286-3765 Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa (414) 286-3533

Legislation introduced regulating food truck operations

File to be discussed at upcoming committee meetings

Alderperson Jonathan Brostoff and Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa have introduced legislation to help better regulate food truck operations in Milwaukee. File #220413, an ordinance relating to regulations for the parking and operation of food peddler vehicles, will be discussed at two upcoming Common Council committee meetings. The full file can be viewed here.

File #220413, which seeks to create an equitable and uniform set of standards for the operation of food trucks citywide, creates several new regulating provisions including:

- Creation of a Type 1 zone that limits hours of operation by providing that a food peddler vehicle parked in that zone shall not be operated between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. and shall not be parked in the zone for more than six hours in a 12-hour period.
- Creation of a Type 2 zone that limits density by establishing the maximum number of food peddler vehicles that may be parked on a block face in that zone.
- Establishes the application process for food peddlers seeking a parking space in a Type 2 limited operation food peddler vehicle zone
- Provides that the food peddler vehicle policy shall be reviewed annually
- Prohibits food peddler vehicles from parking within 50 feet of a restaurant without a drive-through facility, with the option to waive this restriction by Council approval

Additionally, the file aims to provide quality of life improvements in the areas that food trucks operate. These include:

-More-

Food Truck Legislation/ADD ONE

- Requires a food peddler vehicle operator to provide trash receptacles for patrons, and monitor and pick up litter at regular intervals during operations and when departing
- Prohibits a food peddler vehicle operator from creating a light nuisance, and provides that a food peddler vehicle shall be subject to nuisance regulations
- Prohibits a food peddler vehicle operator from dumping any quantity of liquid waste

Alderperson Brostoff believes this new legislation will be a win-win for operators and residents alike. "Right now the city's options are too narrow when it comes to regulating food trucks. It's either ignore the problem until it gets too bad or enact a heavy-handed ban. We want to move away from that and instead have a system of regulatory guidance and structure that outlines how food trucks should be operating like we do for bars and restaurants. We believe this will provide greater clarity and support for those good operators currently in business, while also providing the city mechanisms to deal with the small handful of bad actors," he said.

Alderwoman Zamarripa shares the sentiment. "Ald. Brostoff and I agree that bans are not the way to go. We want to support our food trucks while also making sure our constituents are safe, which is why we have done the heavy lifting and put together comprehensive and progressive legislation that outlines how we expect food truck operators to conduct their business, and allow for the creation of food truck zones," she said.

File #220413 will first be discussed at the next Licenses Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 at 9 a.m. in room 301-B of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. The file will then be heard by the Public Safety and Health Committee which meets on Thursday, May 18 also at 9 a.m. in room 301-B of City Hall. Both committee meetings will be streamed live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.