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June 1, 2010

Alderman Vi Daley
43rd Ward
735 W. Wrightwood
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear Alderman Daley,

I am writing to share the support of the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce (LPCC) with you in regards to an ordinance currently being discussed in Chicago's City Council. The ordinance that would welcome "Street Food" to Chicago through the use of Mobile Food Trucks is a valuable tool in expanding Chicago's culinary reputation and entrepreneurial spirit.

As the nation recovers from a difficult economic landscape, the emergence of new industries and ways of conducting business will be especially valuable. The Mobile Food Truck concept, as evidenced in cities across the United States, is both a sought after and practical way to provide a unique approach to Chicago's dining scene while serving as an incubator for jobs.

While the ordinance drafted allows for Mobile Food Truck to enter Chicago's streets, it is careful to protect existing brick-and-mortar restaurants in our neighborhoods. The LPCC also believes that:

- Mobile Food Trucks will enable further entrepreneurs to emerge out of a difficult economic landscape; and
- Mobile Food Trucks provide chefs and restaurateurs who lack the necessary capital to fund a full-size establishment a medium to share their dishes with the public at a lower cost; and
- The culinary and economic benefits from Mobile Food Trucks will be accessible and expected in nearly all of Chicago's 50 wards; and
- The benefits to secondary businesses like Chicago's Green City Market, shared kitchens, restaurant supply companies and more will further generate economic growth and revenue for the City of Chicago.

We also believe that the ordinance has spelled out an appropriate list of restrictions, licenses and penalties for failure to comply that will keep the restaurant business thriving and safe for the public. While restaurants may be concerned about a loss of business, the requirement for posted routes and distance from existing restaurants is a balanced method of meeting the needs of these two entities collectively. The LPCC anticipates further recognition for the City of Chicago's already burgeoning food reputation. Finally, fees for Mobile Food Trucks would be providing an added source of revenue for the City of Chicago during this period of continued budgetary uncertainty.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (773) 880-5200 for additional discussion as you deem necessary. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your continued commitment to making Chicago one of the premiere business landscapes across the country.

Sincerely,



Kim Schilf, IOM, ACE
President and CEO

CC: Alderman Scott Waguespack (32nd)