



March 20, 2024

The Honorable José Velásquez
Austin City Council Member
P.O. Box 1099
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Council Member Velásquez:

On behalf of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, we would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing advocacy and dedication to supporting our local micro-businesses. We are writing in regards to Item 33, which is to be considered before the Austin City Council on Thursday, March 21, 2024. We commend your efforts to address the challenges faced by food truck owners, especially regarding the annual permitting inspection process. We recognize that such regulatory requirements can impose financial burdens on small businesses, often operating on narrow profit margins.

The Austin Chamber supports further analysis and information collecting as to how a streamlined permitting process can both benefit food truck operators and protect the financial impact to the City Budget. While we are cognizant that the current permitting process may create challenges for food truck owners and operators, it is important that the City take a balanced approach to ensuring that any new regulatory framework does not overburden city inspectors and increase costs for the city and local taxpayers. With an existing shortage of inspectors, City administrative staff could face new challenges with a permitting process that requires more inspectors to be deployed in the field, rather than in a consolidated location.

We encourage ongoing dialogue and collaboration between local government and the business community to explore innovative solutions that reduce red tape for businesses while maintaining appropriate levels of regulatory oversight. Our goal is to foster a business-friendly environment that supports the success and sustainability of all enterprises, both large and small.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to our continued work together to ensure Austin remains a great place to live, work and start a business. Should you have additional questions, please contact Taylor Nkollo, Manager of Government Relations, at (512) 322-5613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Martin'.

Jeremy Martin
President & CEO
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudy Garza'.

Rudy Garza
Chair, Board of Directors
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce