

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

10. Business Licensing By-law Review – Food Premises, Refreshment Vehicles and Automotive Service Establishments
 - C. Bunting, 234 Whisperwood Avenue – indicating that he is the owner of the Goodah Gourmet Grilled Cheese truck; stating that he wants to acknowledge the proposed change from the \$1250 license fee down to \$500, noting that is significant; advising that he understands the need to cover administrative costs; stating that in his four years of running a food truck he has been subject to the same health inspections as a restaurant; noting that he has not had any issues with by-law enforcement in his time running a food truck; stating that there is still quite a difference between \$500 and the \$179 proposed for the restaurants and he asks that that be considered; stating that a food truck is a different kind of business, but in terms of the rules and inspections and regulations, there is not that much difference between a food truck and a restaurant; indicating that he is fine with the \$500 charge if it cannot be lowered further but that he would like to know why there is such a difference between that fee and the restaurant fee; enquiring in regard to where food trucks are able to situate themselves and not impede traffic flow or safety, will it end up becoming a situation where food trucks will be penalized for their success if they have a long line of people on a sidewalk; indicating that the proposed by-law states that no refreshment vehicle shall be operated at a location that is not prescribed by the license manager, which is a very broad statement; stating that London is a big area and that food truck operators know that they can only operate in certain areas of the city and asking for some further clarification on that point.
 - T. Leblanc, Owner, Cocoville Food Truck – stating that he wants to thank the Committee from a year a half ago for listening to his point of view when he came in with concerns at that time; indicating that he reiterates what was said by his colleague who spoke before him; noting that he would like to state that food truck owners are struggling to be good members of society but that it is a challenge to follow all of the rules in order to acquire a parking spot to operate from for only a few hours; stating that he knows that the Committee can have conversations regarding ways to help food truck owners and he wanted to bring that up for consideration, whether it be allocating parking areas and the owners pre-pay for parking or parking passes.
 - T. Viera, 148 Millbank Drive – stating that he has owned an automotive business in the City of London for over twenty years; indicating that he once moved locations part way through a year and had to pay for a new license and that in 2016 he opened a new location and had to pay a full license fee for only a month because he received the license in November; stating that a concern for him is that there are a number of automotive shops operating in his area with no license and have been operating for many years without one; noting that one of these shops has been operating for 8 years and has only received \$240 in fines; stating that he believes the fines for operating without a license should be increased, that the fines are a lot less than the license application fee; noting that there is another shop in his area that has been operating without a license and they have been awarded a City contract and he finds that very frustrating; indicating that he did speak to his City Councillor a few years back and she indicated that he was upset because it was competition; noting that if it was fair competition with other shops that are licensed, he would have no problem with that; stating that it is frustrating when inspectors are not consistent with their decisions; indicating that he thinks that by-law enforcement should be allowed more power and that the current fines are not working.