

Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

March 6, 2018

The Honorable, Members of the
Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall Room 205

Honorable Council Members:

I am vetoing Common Council File Number 181572, which bans food trucks on West National Avenue from 27th Street to the city limits.

Issuing another food truck ban on a particular location does not solve the problem, it only moves it elsewhere.

A vibrant, cutting edge city should support entrepreneurs and create opportunities for every business to grow. Another small ban on food trucks only makes it harder for the food trucks who have made the effort to get properly licensed and operate within the rules.

I understand the sponsor's concern, and the past concerns of many Council members about traffic, parking, and occasional nuisance issues with food trucks. A ban in a small area only moves those issues elsewhere.

Cumulatively, these small bans could create a larger liability for the City. You may recall a previous effort to ban mobile vendors from every street in one Aldermanic district that raised legal concerns. A *de facto* district-wide ban enacted over time presents the same challenges.

I have already taken action to address the issues at the root of this file. First, I have consulted with the Milwaukee Police Department, DPW Parking Enforcement, and the Health Department on enforcement practices for the ordinances we have in place. I am confident that current enforcement activity is adequate and responsive.


Second, I have directed the Health Department to continue working with the state Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to revise the licensing regime for mobile food

vendors. I agree that a food truck operator should not be able to skip around municipal boundaries to avoid regulations that protect neighbors and food safety.

Responsibly operated food trucks can add great energy to our city. They are also a platform for entrepreneurs to start or expand a business. We should find ways to support the opportunities and great flavors they bring to Milwaukee.

I ask that you sustain my veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tom Barrett
Mayor