

From: [Chris \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Cc: [-- City Council](#)
Subject: Appeal for Reconsideration of Planning Decisions Impacting Heather Kratt's Food Truck Park Venture
Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:26:03 AM

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Dear City Clerk and Members of the City Council of Petaluma,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express deep concern and disappointment regarding recent actions taken by the outsourced planning department of Petaluma, currently managed by the M Group, in relation to Ms. Heather Kratt's application for a food truck park. As a past resident and investor with over three decades of acquaintance with Ms. Kratt, I am fully aware of her exceptional capability to contribute positively to any community she becomes a part of.

Heather Kratt is a business veteran who has achieved success both in the corporate world and as an independent business owner. Her well-known and beloved restaurant in Berkeley, Bobby G's Pizzeria, stands testament to her entrepreneurial acumen, community engagement, and dedication to excellence. Given her track record, it is confounding that her application for a new venture in Petaluma has not only been denied but has also resulted in exorbitant fines exceeding \$20,000 for her appeal.

The outsourcing of municipal planning functions to a for-profit entity like the M Group raises important questions about the alignment of community interests with those of the governing body. City planning is a discipline deeply rooted in public service, aimed at enhancing the social, economic, and environmental fabrics of a community. While private entities may be driven by bottom-line considerations, the complex tapestry of urban development must be prioritized through a balanced approach that considers economic gains, social equity, and cultural richness.

A punitive stance towards entrepreneurial initiatives, especially those that come with a proven history of community enrichment like Ms. Kratt's, raises concerns about the accountability, creativity, and transparency of the planning body in question. The levying of excessive fines for an appeal is not only unjust but may also dissuade future entrepreneurs from considering Petaluma as a hospitable environment for business.

The issues highlighted above have serious ramifications for the broader community, setting a precedent that could negatively impact local business growth, job creation, and social vibrancy. I earnestly appeal to you to reconsider the planning decisions in relation to Ms. Kratt's venture.

A food truck park, as envisioned by Ms. Kratt, could serve as an innovative urban space that fosters community engagement, offers diverse culinary experiences, and provides economic opportunities for local residents. Denying a permit for such a promising venture seems counterintuitive to the broader goals of sustainable and equitable urban

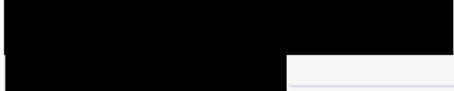
development that any forward-thinking city should strive for.

I kindly request the City Council and Mayor to intervene in this matter to ensure that fair and informed decisions are made that reflect the collective aspirations and welfare of Petaluma's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your prompt attention to this pressing issue, and please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Chris Wilson



cc:

Petaluma Chamber of Commerce

Petaluma Planning Commission

Local Media