

**From:** Al Higgins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 4:37 PM  
**To:** City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>  
**Subject:** Advocating for a Fair, Fact-Based Resolution for A&M BBQ

Good Evening Mayor, Council members, and City Staff.

My name is Al Higgins, and I am writing in support of A&M BBQ and its owners, Mr. Austin and Mr. Liss.

A&M BBQ has become more than just a restaurant. It is a local business that has contributed to Sebastopol's economy, created jobs, attracted visitors, and built community connections. Their success should be viewed as an asset to our city.

I am asking the City to approach this situation with fairness, transparency, and collaboration.

First, if concerns about smoke and air quality are driving the City's actions, decisions should be based on objective data and formal assessments rather than assumptions or anecdotal observations. The community deserves a fact-based process.

Second, A&M BBQ has reportedly passed multiple health and fire inspections. If there compliance or permitting concerns, the City should work with the business to find practical solutions rather than imposing actions that could threaten its viability.

Third, the owners have acknowledged that they have outgrown their current location and have been actively searching for a larger site. Relocating a business takes time, planning, and resources. They should be given a reasonable opportunity to complete that transition without facing unnecessary financial hardship.

Finally, how Sebastopol responds to this situation sends a message to all current and future business owners. We should be known as a city that supports small businesses, values diversity, and works collaboratively to solve challenges.

I respectfully urge the City Council to pause punitive actions, engage in meaningful dialogue with A&M BBQ, and pursue a solution that balances community concerns with fairness and economic opportunity.

Thank you for your time.