

From: Angelica Seguro [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 4:38 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Support for Local Sebastopol Business

Dear Sebastopol City Council,

I am writing in support of A&M BBQ and to ask the Council to continue working collaboratively with them as they search for long-term solutions and relocation options. For my family, A&M BBQ became more than just somewhere to eat. It became a weekly tradition and something we genuinely looked forward to together. Even now, I regularly drive nearly an hour just to bring my family there because it is that meaningful to us. In a time where so many restaurants are chain and mass produced, A&M BBQ created something personal, memorable, and community-centered.

I understand that concerns have been raised regarding smoke, traffic, and the impact of the restaurant's growth on the surrounding neighborhood. Those concerns deserve to be acknowledged. At the same time, I think it is important to recognize that A&M BBQ has not ignored those concerns. They have publicly acknowledged them, stated they have already been actively searching for a more appropriate long-term location for nearly a year, and are trying to work with the City while continuing to support their employees and customers. What concerns me most is the broader message situations like this send to small business owners and entrepreneurs. When a local business grows successfully, creates jobs, becomes a destination for families, participates in the community, and brings people into the area, I believe the response should prioritize collaboration and practical solutions whenever possible.

I also hope the Council keeps in mind the people behind the business. This is not just about a building or a permit issue. Employees and families depend on these jobs, and many customers, including my own family, have built traditions and memories around this restaurant. Abrupt actions could have very real consequences for working people who have done nothing wrong.

No business should be above reasonable regulation, but there should also be room for compassion, flexibility, and realistic transition timelines so businesses have the opportunity to adapt responsibly without immediately risking jobs and livelihoods. I respectfully ask the Council to allow A&M BBQ reasonable time to relocate and continue finding solutions that balance neighborhood concerns with the importance of supporting local small businesses and the people who rely on them.

Sincerely,
Angelica Seguro