

From: barbfinley [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 4:36 PM  
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>  
Subject: Letter in support of A&M

Dear members of the Sebastopol City Council,

We are writing in support of A&M BBQ. A&M brings people into Sebastopol from throughout Sonoma County and beyond, generating economic activity that benefits not only their business but also the Sebastopol commercial community as a whole. Their success contributes to the vitality of our downtown and helps make Sebastopol a destination.

Beyond their economic impact, A&M BBQ has demonstrated that they are committed community members. They have built strong relationships with local residents and have become a valued part of the fabric of our town. When we looked into catering for our daughter's high school graduation party, A&M was our first choice, not only because of how good their food is, but also because theirs is the type of business we want to support.

We are deeply disappointed by the way this situation has been handled and the message it sends to local business owners. Sebastopol prides itself on supporting small businesses, diversity, and inclusion, yet this process risks conveying the opposite message. This concern is especially significant when it involves a BIPOC-owned business that has invested in our community, created a gathering place for residents and visitors, and contributed to the local economy.

We should be doing everything possible to support businesses that choose to invest in Sebastopol, not creating barriers that make them feel unwelcome. We urge the City Council to reflect on the precedent being set and to demonstrate that Sebastopol is committed to working collaboratively with all business owners, particularly those from historically underrepresented communities. We can and should do better.

Sincerely,

Barb & Shane Finley