

From: Catherine Huntington [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 12:32 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for A&M BBQ

Dear Sebastopol City Council,

I'm writing in strong support of A&M BBQ and to encourage the City to work toward a fair and reasonable solution that allows them to continue operating in Sebastopol.

A&M BBQ is more than just a restaurant — it's a gathering place, a local employer, and an important part of the community fabric. Independent small businesses are part of what gives Sebastopol character and soul, and many residents clearly value what A&M has brought to the town.

I also think it's important to acknowledge the broader context here. Sebastopol is an overwhelmingly white and affluent community, and Black-owned businesses remain underrepresented in spaces like this. Businesses owned by people of color often face additional scrutiny and barriers that others do not. That makes it especially important that the City approaches this situation thoughtfully, fairly, and with awareness of the wider social impact of its decisions.

Of course, neighborhood concerns should be heard and addressed where possible, but I hope the City prioritizes collaboration and practical compromise over punitive action that could ultimately force out a valued local business. It would be deeply disappointing to see a business that contributes so much to the town's culture and diversity pushed out because a small number of (NIMBY) neighbors object to its presence.

Please give A&M BBQ reasonable time, flexibility, and support to resolve any issues while keeping their staff employed and their business alive.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting a vibrant, diverse local community.

Sincerely,

Catherine Huntington & Tyler Olson
McFarlane Ave, Sebastopol, CA