

From: Jason Robinson [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 8:14 AM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Letter of Support for A&M BBQ – Request for Reasonable Time and Solutions

Importance: High

Dear Mayor Jill McLewis and Members of the Sebastopol City Council,

I am writing to express strong support for A&M BBQ and to respectfully request that the City work collaboratively with Kris Austin and his family to find a responsible long-term solution that allows this beloved local business to continue serving our community.

A&M BBQ is a small, family-owned restaurant and catering business, not an industrial production facility. Kris Austin, his wife Tyanna, and their family are longtime Sebastopol residents whose children attend local schools. They opened their business here because this is their home. Over the years, they have been active supporters of local organizations, community events, and the local economy.

Like many small businesses, A&M BBQ has faced growing pains as they have expanded. I appreciate that the business has publicly acknowledged community concerns regarding smoke, air quality, and traffic, and that they are actively working with City staff on operational adjustments while pursuing a suitable long-term location. Relocating a commercial restaurant, especially one involving permitted equipment and infrastructure, is a complex process that requires time, planning, and cooperation.

A&M BBQ has become an important part of the fabric of Sebastopol. Many residents, including myself, value their food, their commitment to the community, and the fact that they are a local family working hard to build something positive here. Shutting down or overly restricting a small business like this without giving them a reasonable path forward would be a loss for our local economy and for the many people who rely on them for meals, catering, and jobs.

I respectfully urge the City Council to:

- Grant A&M BBQ reasonable time to find and transition to a more appropriate long-term location
- Continue working collaboratively with them on solutions
- Support this small family business as they navigate the challenges of growth in our community

Small businesses like A&M BBQ are the backbone of Sebastopol. I hope the Council will choose a path of partnership and problem-solving rather than one that forces out a dedicated local family.

Thank you for your time I would appreciate and consideration. I would appreciate a response read receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Jason Robinson

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