

From: Morgan Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 2:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]; City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Letter in Support of A&M BBQ

To whom it may concern, please see attached letter.

Thank you!

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Morgan Gray

Advanced Sommelier, CMS

Dear Members of the Sebastopol City Council,

I am writing in support of A&M BBQ and to respectfully encourage the Council to work collaboratively with the business as they pursue relocation and operational solutions.

Small, locally owned businesses are part of what gives Sebastopol its identity and sense of community. A&M BBQ has clearly become more than just a restaurant to many residents. It truly is a gathering place and a business that has invested back into the community through events, donations, and participation in local culture.

At the same time, I understand and respect that nearby residents have raised legitimate concerns regarding smoke, air quality, traffic, and neighborhood impacts. Those concerns deserve to be taken seriously and addressed thoughtfully. What stands out to me, however, is that the owners of A&M BBQ have acknowledged these concerns publicly, remained engaged with City staff, and expressed a clear commitment to finding long-term solutions, including relocating to a more appropriate site for their growing operations.

Relocating a restaurant — particularly one involving commercial smokers, permitting, infrastructure, and financing — is not something that can happen overnight. It requires planning, investment, approvals, and time. From their communication, it appears they are making good-faith efforts to navigate this responsibly while continuing to support their employees and customers.

I hope the Council will consider allowing A&M BBQ reasonable time and flexibility to complete this transition in a way that protects both neighborhood quality of life and the livelihoods of the people who depend on this business. Supporting local businesses through periods of growth and adjustment is part of building a resilient and compassionate community.

Sebastopol has long valued independent businesses, entrepreneurship, and collaboration. I believe there is a path forward here that balances community concerns with fairness, practicality, and support for a local family-run business trying to do the right thing.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the community.

Sincerely,
Morgan Gray