



Mobile Food Vendors Association



Who we are:

The Mobile Food Vendors Association is a group of small business owners who own mobile food units. As a chapter of Action NC, we are working to change an ill-conceived zoning ordinance that has hurt many mobile food vendors in the Charlotte area. Our mission is to organize and empower local small business owners who own mobile food units, in order to affect local legislation, with the purpose of protecting the rights of these small businesses to exist and be treated with the same consideration as any other small enterprise in any other part of the city.

Why are we organizing?

In the fall of 2008, the Charlotte City Council approved an ordinance that in effect put the majority of mobile food vendors (Loncheras) out of business or caused them to move to other cities. The ordinance states that a mobile food vendor may not be within 400 feet from a residential area; must close by 9pm; and may only be in a specific location for no more than 90 days.

The specific parts of Section 12.510 of Charlotte Zoning Regulation that require a 9PM closing time and a distance of 400 feet from a residence have forced many vendors to go out of business. The hours and locations of operation are what used to make these mobile food vendors successful. The sections in the ordinance that deal with duration in a particular location are also too strict and needlessly create a barrier to building a sustainable clientele.

Like any other small private enterprise, mobile food vendors are taking the initiative and have chosen to open their own businesses. They are trying to survive in the current economy, and regulations like the ones the Charlotte City Council passed in the Autumn 2008 only work to deter the growth and productivity of small businesses.

Who is Action NC?

Action NC is a grassroots community organization that empowers low to moderate-income communities to take action and win victories on issues of concern to our members. Our priorities include: better housing conditions for tenants, living wages for low-wage workers, affordable health care, more investment in our communities from banks and governments, safer neighborhoods, comprehensive immigration reform, and better public schools. We achieve these goals by building community organizations that have the power to win changes -- through community direct action, negotiation, legislation, and voter participation.

Issues come straight from the membership, because Action NC believes that social change comes from the bottom up. Members are black, white, and Latino families who take ownership of their issues, by organizing their own communities to take action and are active in running the organization, not just contributors or newsletter readers.

For more information, please contact us:

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