PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-37-2019
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	Health, Human Services and Public Safety
Date:	9/18/2019
Action:	FAV/A

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 4-0 (In favor: Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison and Taveras)

The Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee met on September 18, 2019 to consider CB-37-2019 Draft 2, Food Truck Licensing Fees Reduction. CB-37-2019 Draft 2 amends sections 5-189.02 and 11-163 "reduces and eliminates fees." Currently, the Fire Department charges a technical assistance fee that would be reduced from $75.00 to $35.00. The Bill also eliminates the current license application fees of $500 for a food truck hub operating less than 60 days and the fee for $3500 if the hub is operating more than 60 days a year. The legislative officer provided an overview of the legislation and reviewed the amendments contained in Draft 2. The new draft changes the per hour rate charged by the Fire Department to a flat fee. Vice Chair Ivey distributed a fee comparison chart for the committee members consideration.

Lori Valentine, Director of Policy and Communications, from the Economic Development Corporation, who chairs the Food Truck Hub Oversight Committee, spoke in support of the legislation. She explained the intent is to remove barriers to expanding the number of Food Trucks in the County. DPIE Director, Melinda Boling, expressed support for CB-37-2019 Draft2. She also explained that the department could see a negative fiscal impact if enacted. Captain Antonio Cole represented the Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshall, during the work session and voiced support for the legislation. Captain Cole stated that it is important for the inspections to remain the responsibility of the Fire Department. Vice Chair Ivey the sponsor of the legislation confirmed that the responsibility will remain with the PGCFD.

The Office of Audits and Investigation concludes that although decreased fees will in the short term reduce revenue for the County, the reduction could be seen as a benefit which will provide a long-term investment for our jurisdiction in terms of more food truck vendors applying for food truck licenses, and more food choices for residents and those working in Prince George's County.