



City of Annapolis City Council
Committee & Commission Referral Action Report

Date:

To: City of Annapolis Office of Law
Legislative and Policy Analyst

The Maritime Advisory Board has reviewed Ordinance O-8-16 (Title 7 – Business Licenses, Taxes and Regulations) and the Board has taken the following action:

Favorable

Favorable with amendments

Unfavorable

No Action (7-0)

Other

Comments:

The Board saw the benefit to the WMI zoning district of mobile food service vendors but several members expressed concern about the impact on nearby food service establishments along Forest Drive.

The Board concluded that the licensing and regulation of the provision of food and other commodities and services from the water is distinctly different from those same activities on land. Accordingly, the provisions relating to on-the-water mobile vendors should be removed from O-8-16 and be the subject of legislation specifically addressing on-the-water vendors. These distinctions include but are not necessarily limited to 1) the interaction with U.S. Coast Guard regulations pertaining to the carriage of goods, 2) the unique ambiance of the Annapolis Harbor as distinguished from on-land commercial zones and the resulting impact to that ambiance, 3) the economic impact on nearby established food service establishments (deterrence to coming ashore, particularly in

the morning time-frame), 4) the hours of operation perhaps should be earlier, particularly on weekends, to accommodate the turnover of moorings.

The Board also recommends that provision be made to exempt vessels that currently serve food and beverages as part of their licensed operations, particularly those that currently are subject to the Admissions & Amusement tax.

Meeting Date: February 16, 2015



Tarrant H. Lomax, Chair