

Name:: Dylan O'Brien

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Please leave your comments and questions below:: Hello,  
My name is Dylan O'Brien and I am the co-owner of Prizefighter Bar on Hollis Street. I'm reaching out regarding the MWO and the potential pause for indepently owned food service establishments. I was made aware by Chad Smalley that we are not included on the list of businesses that would be covered by the pause because of the zoning for our space which is for a bar/tavern. My hope is that you would consider an amendment to add us to that list covered by the pause.

While it's true that we are a bar and the vast majority of what we do is sell beverages, we do in fact sell some food. We have a small table top oven which we serve fresh German-style pretzels from. We also carry ready to eat snacks from a couple of local purveyors though unfortunately our primary supplier has decided to get out of the snack business so we are actively seeking other options. The truth is that we don't really mark up our food offerings much because we want them to be accessible. We need to have some sort of food option and without a kitchen we are somewhat limited.

That said, we are still experiencing the same pressures that our restaurant neighbors are experiencing with the minimum wage. Our cocktail program is extensive and ingredient driven so we're dealing with fresh produce and the fluctuations of price and shelf life associated with that. We also have the equivalent labor to prepare and clean up all of that fresh product. We also only have tipped employees who are making 2 to 4 times what the prescribed living wage is. I understand the semantic difference and the fact that the evaluation was based on zoning, but I wanted to give you that context. I can't speak for anyone else, but I would assume confidently that Branch Line, Public Bar, and the Bank Club are in the same boat as we are.

Unfortunately I am working behind the bar tonight so I will be unable to attend the meeting and voice my opinion in person. However, let it be known that every single one of my employees, are tipped employees and since the day we opened 7.5 years ago, have made at least twice the living wage as determined by the City.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dylan O'Brien

Additional Information:

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