

Hong Kong 13 January 2009

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Chairman
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council
panel_fseh@legco.gov.hk

Re: Review on hawker licensing policy and new hawker licences for vacant fixed pitches

Honorable Chairman and Members,

We support new hawker licences for vacant pitches through ballots to allow people to enter the trade. We are concerned that assigning vacant pitches directly to adjacent hawkers and registered assistants of the same street creates unacceptable risks to the fair, competitive and quality operation of street markets, and restrict entry into the trade. To further promote vibrant and quality market operations we recommend that:

1. Existing hawkers are NOT allowed to take up additional (adjacent, back/front) hawker pitches;
2. However, existing hawkers are allowed (through ballot) to swap their pitch for a vacant pitch;
3. The pitch size can be reviewed subject to local circumstances and in consultation with the district council when it is deemed inadequate and unsuitable for a vibrant and quality market operation;
4. All new fixed pitch hawker licences are limited to THREE years;
5. Existing hawkers whose licence will expire and who have a clean record (no offenses under hawker regulations) will be given priority (a greater chance to win) in the ballot for a vacant pitch;
6. ONE registered assistant of a hawker (or his/her successors) who has agreed to forego his/her right to apply for licence renewal will be given priority (a greater chance to win) in the ballot for a vacant pitch;
7. All other applicants for new hawker licences will be deemed equal in a ballot for vacant pitches;
8. Areas designated for hawker pitches are to be designed for such use, including larger storm drains to support cleaning, lighting, storage, and other relevant facilities.

Herewith we so submit for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Zimmerman
Founding Member