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Mr. Paul Zimmerman
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9 January 2008

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

Hawker Management and Control Policy Review and Consultations

Thank you for your letter dated 26 December 2007 regarding the above subject.

Hawking activities in Hong Kong can be traced back to a long time in the past. Diverse views are expressed by different sectors of the community concerning hawker licensing. Whilst there are suggestions that the transfer and succession arrangements for the existing licences should be further relaxed so as to preserve some of the traditional hawker stalls, some people are concerned about the environmental nuisance and obstruction caused by hawking activities.

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and our Department are now conducting a review on hawker licensing policy which covers issues such as whether new licences may be issued and whether the arrangements for the transfer and succession of existing licences should be further relaxed. In the course of the review, we will listen to and carefully consider the views expressed by different sectors of the community. Various parties such as the Legislative Council, the relevant District Councils and hawker associations will be consulted, with a view to formulating a package of measures which is agreeable to all sectors of the community.

Thank you for your valuable views. If you have any enquiry, please contact the undersigned at 2867 5252.

Yours sincerely,

(LO Siu-fung)

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c. LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Health (Attn: Miss Flora TAI)
Secretary for Food and Health (Attn: Mr. Francis HO)