



September 9, 2014

Council File 13-1493

Honorable City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 13-1493 regarding the proposed permitting of street vendors on City sidewalks and parkways.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council supports efforts to permit street vendors on City sidewalks and parkways and urges the City Council to consider the following issues in developing a regulatory scheme for regulating street vending.

Under current law in the City of Los Angeles, street vending is illegal, making Los Angeles the only major U.S. city without a regulatory scheme that allows micro-entrepreneurs to legitimately use our public spaces to help their businesses flourish. Street vending can activate public spaces, increase safety, and improve the economic condition of individuals and local businesses. A vibrant street vending industry also provides consumers with additional options for dining. Although there are numerous benefits to a healthy and robust street vending industry, we do have a number of concerns listed below that we respectfully request be considered in developing the regulatory scheme for regulating street vending:

- Regulation of any industry requires enforcement. Therefore, for sidewalk vending to be effectively regulated, there needs to be sufficient resources in terms of staffing and funds to enforce the appropriate regulations. One source of funding may be permit fees and taxes collected from street vendors;
- Street vendors should be susceptible to frequent inspection to ensure that food sold by a permitted vendor is prepared in a safe and healthy manner. In this regard, as is done with restaurants and food trucks, permitted vendors should be required to comply with random inspections;
- Neighboring property owners should be indemnified and not liable for any damages suffered by a patron of a street vendor. For example, a property owner should not be liable for food poisoning caused by a sidewalk vendor or a slip and fall caused by grease

deposited by a street vendor. One means to address this issue is to require street vendors to have liability insurance;

- The regulatory scheme should consider the significant investments of brick and mortar businesses by, for example, placing distance limitations between a street vendor selling substantially similar products as a neighboring brick and mortar business. Placing distance limitations will reduce the likelihood that a sidewalk vendor may be accused of taking business away from a brick and mortar;
- The regulatory scheme should maintain an entry point for unsophisticated micro-entrepreneurs, should not be overly burdensome, and encourage participation from vendors of various economic backgrounds and capabilities so that they have a fair opportunity to become licensed and legitimate business operators. In this regard, any fees should be reasonable so as to not further discourage compliance with regulations;
- Street vendors should be required to legally dispose of their waste and maintain a clean and safe environment; and
- The number of permitted sidewalk vendors for a particular area should be controlled so that sidewalks are maintained as safe passages for pedestrians and are ADA compliant.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on September 9, 2014, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of \_\_\_ yes, \_\_\_ no, \_\_\_ abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

**Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council supports efforts to permit street vendors on City sidewalks and parkways and urges the City Council to consider the following issues.”**

Sincerely,