

# California State Senate



## SENATOR RICARDO LARA

November 26, 2018

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Sidewalk Vending Permit Program – Council File 13-1493; 13-1493-S5**

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

I am proud to have authored Senate Bill 946 (SB 946) to promote safe sidewalk vending opportunities throughout California. In the process of enacting this legislation, I had the honor of meeting and talking to many of the entrepreneurs, workers, business owners and civic leaders who make our state great. These conversations reaffirmed that California is a place where entrepreneurs can thrive and achieve their dreams. Sidewalk vendors are an important part of our growing small business economy and I am proud of our work to move past harmful criminalization practices and embrace inclusion and opportunity.

I want to applaud the Los Angeles City Council for its leadership on this important issue. The City led the state in decriminalizing sidewalk vending and ensuring these entrepreneurs were not punished for honest work. As the City is now poised to adopt a comprehensive sidewalk vending program, you have the chance to create an model for the rest of the state. With this opportunity in mind, I write to encourage the City to establish a permitting program.

SB 946 clearly contemplates the establishment of a local permitting program. The law was crafted this way in recognition of the many benefits of a local permitting program. A permitting program would allow the City to collect permit fees in order to generate revenue to help offset implementation costs. Permit fees can support important technical assistance and education programs for vendors, while giving City officials tools to implement vital local programs like healthy food incentives. Furthermore, a permit system would help the City track and monitor vending activity in order to make adjustments to regulations that reflect market conditions. By adopting a permit program, the City can offer location-based permits in order to create certainty and reduce health and safety concerns in areas of high demand. Finally, a permit system would lend greater legitimacy to vending operations in order to support the formalization and enhance the economic mobility of low-income entrepreneurs.



For all these reasons, I encourage the City Council to adopt Draft Vending Ordinance No. 1 to authorize the issuance of local permits and licenses. Thank you for your strong leadership on such a crucial issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Lara', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

**RICARDO LARA**  
Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District