

Contact Information:

Neighborhood Council: Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood
Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 07/08/14

Type of NC Board Action: Opposition Against Council File No:
13-1493; Street Vending and Merchandise Ordinance

Impact Information

Date: 07/15/14

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1493

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council discussed the proposed ordinance at our July 8, 2014, Board meeting. Our Board members discussed the issues raised in Council File No. 13-1493, City of Los Angeles Street Vending Ordinance proposal, which requests a study of the feasibility of legalizing and permitting street vending of food and merchandise on City sidewalks and parkways. Stakeholders of our Neighborhood Council are already negatively experiencing the impact of a large number of illegal street vendors of both food and merchandise. Therefore, the Board voted unanimously, to oppose Council File Number 13-1493, unless the proposal is amended to include specific conditions. The conditions should be included to minimize the potential negative impacts and support the implementation of safe guards to preserve both business and residential areas.

Delores Allmond - Chairperson
Pamela Thornton - Vice Chairperson
Rosalie Preston - Recording Secretary
Neodros Bridgeforth – Corres. Secretary
Joan Jacobs - Treasurer
Ramon Montoya - District 1 Rep.
Adrian Valenzuela - District 2 Rep.
Reynaldo Paduani - District 3 Rep.
Betty Hawkins - District 4 Representative



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Llewyn Fowlkes - District 5 Rep.
Marvin Bell - District 6 Rep.
Rosario Rico - District 7 Rep.
Shirley Johnson - District 8 Rep.
Deborah Lee – Community Org. Rep.
Richard Lee - Youth Representative
Donald Cook – At-Large Rep.
Charlene Marshall - At-Large Rep.

July 15, 2014

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
200 N. Spring Street - Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Bernard Parks
200 N. Spring Street – Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File No. 13-1493 Street Vending of Food and Merchandise

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Parks:

At our July 8, 2014, Board meeting our Board members discussed the issues raised by Council File No. 13-1493, City of Los Angeles Street Vending Policy, which requests a study of the feasibility of legalizing and permitting street vending of food and merchandise on City sidewalks and parkways. Stakeholders of our Neighborhood Council are already negatively experiencing the impact of a large number of illegal street vendors of both food and merchandise. The following are some of the issues which we have observed:

- (a) Generation of a large amount of the trash which ends up along City streets
- (b) Creation of a safety hazard, when children run across the street to a vendor after school, and also the creation of traffic jams in front of schools
- (c) Staining of our sidewalks with grease residue and food and beverage residue
- (d) Food residue, such as popcorn and bread crumbs on our parkways and sidewalks which then attract flocks of pigeons, creating unhealthy amounts of pigeon excrement in the public right-of-way.
- (e) Vending on streets and sidewalks in residential neighborhoods which impacts private property
- (f) Impact on licensed small restaurants and other businesses, which also sell food and

snacks, such as along Gardena Blvd.

(g) The payment of very low wages and possible exploitation of vendors by those who organize their carts and supplies.

(h) Unfair competition with licensed small businesses selling low-cost goods.

(i) Partial blocking of sidewalks which pedestrians need to use.

(j) The creation of a blighted look to neighborhoods by the display of goods on fences.

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(k) The creation of traffic hazards from vehicles which double park or illegally park to purchase food and merchandise from vendors on parkways and right-of-ways with inadequate public parking areas adjacent to these sites.

Therefore, we voted unanimously, 12 to 0, not support the proposal unless it is amended to include the following conditions:

1. There is adequate funding and dedicated staff to operate and enforce the street vending program, including the provision of overtime for calls made to the staff after hours.
2. Coordination of enforcement of the ordinance by the Los Angeles Police Department, Bureau of Street Services, City Attorney, Office of Finance, the Los Angeles County Health Department and community stakeholders.
3. A report from City Departments on the personnel and budget required to operate an effective citywide street vending program, with the development of guidelines and procedures, enforcement and administrative costs, potential revenues derived from fees, sales tax, business licenses, and enforcement penalties, the identification of geographic areas to be exempted from the street vending ordinance, coordination with the Los Angeles County Health Department to ensure consumer safety and compliance, and work with the business community to minimize potential negative impacts.
4. Food and merchandise shall be permitted for sale on city sidewalks in pre-designated areas of the city, only.
5. Special Sidewalk Vending Districts shall be permitted except in commercially zoned areas of the city.
6. No street vending on any residential private property or public right of way in residential zones.
7. A list of pre-approved items which vendors may sell.
8. Requirement of a certificate of liability insurance and a letter of consent from adjacent businesses before a vendor is permitted to sell.

9. In addition to a street vendor license, a special license or permit shall be required for sidewalk or street vending within specific neighborhood business districts.
10. To obtain a street vending permit, the vendor must get the following prior approvals: award letter from License and Vending Unit, food establishment, retail non-permanent location (if food will be sole), Los Angeles County Health Department approval, (if food will be sold), commercial activity license, BTRC (Business Tax Registration Certificate), W-9 (Federal Tax Identification Number), and any other relevant licenses.

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11. Before a street vendor can be licensed to sell in a certain area, a study of parking spaces available near that vending area shall be made.
12. No vending shall be allowed from a shopping cart and restrictions on the types of vending units which are used for street vending shall be established.
13. Violations of the ordinance shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 and/or six months imprisonment, for the first violation. Fines for subsequent violations are to double upon each occurrence.
14. A requirement that the permit shall be renewed every year and that an annual license fee shall be required.

Sincerely,

Pamela Thornton

Pamela Thornton
Chair - Planning and Land Use
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

Vice-President
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council