John White <john.white@lacity.org>

To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 12, 2017 at 8:01 AM

Please attach this email AND the accompanying attachment to CF 13-1493.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 11, 2017 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Westchester Town Center BID Newsletter
To: Donald R Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

The current issue of the Westchester Town Center BID Newsletter is attached. Please see the article about the City's proposed legalization of "street vending" in our community.

We are sending the newsletter now so that our readers have an opportunity to voice their preferences with respect to the proposed City action that is being supported by Councilman Mike Bonin. Think of taco carts, fruit vendors, and cheap merchandise together with all of the litter, sidewalk mess, and clutter caused by vendors that don't pay rent, taxes, or fees as the brick and mortar stores they are competing against do. The Westchester Town Center BID has requested our Councilman to not force street vending on the community of Westchester and to require property owner approval before any vendor could set up shop in front of their property. If some neighborhoods want it, fine, but we don't think Westchester is one of those places. The Neighborhood Council and Chamber of Commerce have agreed. How fair is it to require property owners to repair their sidewalks but not allow them to have a voice in whether or not someone can set up a business there?

The City Council is apparently going to vote on this item on January 18. Let Councilman Bonin know your thoughts at 310-568-8772.

John A. White
Legislative Assistant
Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
Housing Committee
(213) 978-1072

BID Newsletter 161216.pdf
1768K
**Westchester Garden Dedicated to Congresswoman Maxine Waters**

Information about the LAWA Specific Plan Amendment Study (SPAS) and the proposed move of the airport's northernmost runway can be found at laxspas.org

To contact the Office of L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the Westchester Town Center BID area, please call (310) 568-8772 or visit 11thdistrict.com

To contact the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association please call (310) 225-7630 or visit westchesterstreetscape.org

The public is invited to attend WTC BID Board meetings, which are normally held at 10 am on the third Thursday of each month at Drollinger Properties, 8929 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 130 in Westchester.
What Is the Westchester Town Center BID?

The mission of the WTC BID is to: proactively enhance the vitality of the business district, its stakeholders, and the community by providing an inviting environment; streetscape landscaping and beautification; marketing and promotions; new business attraction; and policy advocacy.

It is a property based District formed by a vote of the commercial property owners that assess themselves for its costs of operation. Some 129 properties are included, and it is one of about 45 other business improvement districts in the City of Los Angeles. The WTC BID is managed by a non-profit corporation pursuant to its adopted Management District Plan and contract with the City. Its Board of Directors meets monthly and invites stakeholder participation.

Westchester Town Center BID Board of Directors

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Executive Director

BID Weighs in on City’s Proposed Street Vending Ordinance

The Westchester Town Center BID has long been opposed to food carts and other forms of street vending.

“We do not believe that such street vendors are an appropriate use within the Westchester business district,” the BID wrote in a letter to Councilman Mike Bonin. “Such vendors are not fair to local businesses that must pay rent, taxes, utilities, and abide by the many regulations that are attendant to their business, including inspections. Legalization of street vending raises questions about health, safety, increased sidewalk congestion, and trash.”

One of the biggest issues, of course, is the fact that the City has no realistic plan or capacity for regulating out-of-control street vending; there are an estimated 50,000 illegal street vendors currently operating in the City.

Recognizing that some Los Angeles City Council Districts may desire such vendors, the BID supports establishment of special zones or permits that are not applicable to our area – a so-called “opt-in” system.

More than 30 major cities across the nation already have strict rules regarding street vending. In Boston, for example, sidewalk vendors must obtain written permission from the owner of the building outside they wish to operate. In San Diego, sidewalk vendors are not allowed in the Gaslamp District, and in other parts of the city must operate near approved toilet and hand-washing facilities. In San Francisco, sidewalk vending is prohibited in residential areas and vendors must remain a certain distance away from existing restaurants and other facilities.

The BID will continue to push for common sense restrictions on street vending that protect our local brick and mortar businesses as well as the health and safety of our neighborhood.

If you or your business would like to see sidewalk vending more closely regulated, please contact SaveSmallBusiness@gmail.com