



# Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa

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December 9, 2016

Council Member Joe Buscaino  
Chair, Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
City Hall Room 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Council Member Curren Price  
Chair, Economic Development Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
City Hall Room 420  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via email to [cd15@lacity.org](mailto:cd15@lacity.org) and [Councilmember.Price@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Price@lacity.org)

Re: CF 13-1493 Sidewalk Vending Policy

Dear Chairmen Buscaino and Price:

On behalf of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed changes in the City's sidewalk vending ordinance.

While street vending might be desirable in some location or during special events, that is clearly not the case throughout the City. Currently, there are an estimated 50,000 illegal street vendors operating within the Los Angeles City limits. These vendors do not pay rent, utilities, taxes, minimum wage nor do they carry liability insurance.

Additionally, they compete in many cases with brick-and-mortar retailers who do pay taxes, insurance and other operating costs as required by law. The allowance of illegal vendors creates an unequal business environment for the brick-and-mortar businesses that follow the City and County codes and laws.

Although supporters of the new ordinance argue that upon legalization, fees could be collected from these vendors that would cover the costs of code enforcement, that may not be true. For example, the City failed to collect taxes due from downtown parking lot operators for many years, and these were stationary business. Without mechanisms or substantial new resources to track the street vendors (and there is not one), it is quite unlikely that fees and taxes will be collected as suggested.

Brick-and-mortar businesses, which must comply with both City and County laws and regulations (or they will be shut down), have been placed at a competitive disadvantage in certain parts of the City. While some parts of the City would welcome the street vendors, there are clearly other communities that would not. Residential and school areas are just two examples. In this regard, we believe that areas that desire to have sidewalk vending should be allowed to "opt-in" to that as opposed to requiring areas that do not want sidewalk vending to "opt-out."

Before any change is even considered, a full report about the implementation issues associated with any such ordinance must be available for all Neighborhood Councils to review and comment on.

We urge you to oppose this proposed ordinance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Cyndi Hench*

Cyndi Hench  
NCWP President

C: Councilman Mike Bonin, 11<sup>th</sup> District ([mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org))  
Don Duckworth, Westchester Town Center BID ([duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com))  
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