October 27, 2015

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr., Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
The Honorable Nury Martinez

Re: Sidewalk Vending, Council File No. 13-1493

Dear Chairman Price:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on item #1 before the Economic Development Committee today, a proposed framework for sidewalk vending in the City of Los Angeles.

I support sidewalk vending, and fully appreciate its potential to enliven neighborhoods, create jobs, promote economic activity and more. I am eager to see the City approve a program to legalize and properly regulate sidewalk vending. I do not, however, support a blanket citywide policy, and recommend instead that we create the option for supportive neighborhoods to create special sidewalk vending districts.

As the second largest city in the U.S., Los Angeles is home to more than a hundred distinct and amazing neighborhoods. Each diverse neighborhood has its own set of existing planning conditions and quality of life aspirations, and I believe we should allow each neighborhood to determine whether it would like to establish a special district model to allow sidewalk vending.

This process for establishing sidewalk vending in Los Angeles should be community-driven, not City-driven. The question of whether to allow sidewalk vending in a certain area requires a careful balancing of the myriad interests of vendors, residents, brick-and-mortar business, farmers’ markets, and more. That would be done most successfully at the neighborhood or community level. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a thorough discussion in City Council.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District