



October 26, 2105

Honorable Councilmember Curren Price
Chair, Economic Development Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St., Room 420
Los Angeles, California 90012

Members Planning Land Use Management Committee via email

RE: Street Vending (Council File: 13-1493)

Dear Members of the Economic Development Committee,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, I respectfully submit this letter in support of the Citywide Sidewalk Vending policy, components of which are being considered by your committee. We believe that street vendors should be treated as legitimate small business owners and receive their overdue recognition from the City as a critical part of Los Angeles' cultural landscape.

Many of the 600,000 hardworking Angelinos that we represent have at some point in their lives established and operated vending businesses. They include immigrants and individuals with criminal convictions who turned to street vending as a means to survive until they were able to gain access to a quality union job.

We urge you to support a model that: establishes a citywide permitting process on sidewalks and parks; creates an accessible and easy-to-navigate permit process; provides meaningful incentives for healthy food vending; decriminalizes vending by removing misdemeanor fines. We also believe that the City should not adopt a policy that allows for the outright exclusion of vendors. The key to a successful vending program is inclusion and participation, not exclusion.

By passing a comprehensive and inclusive policy, the City would continue its firm commitment to economic and social justice as demonstrated by the recent passage of the \$15 minimum wage and its current discussions around a local Ban the Box ordinance.

We strongly support the passage of the Citywide Sidewalk Vending policy and look forward to the city council renewing its commitment towards improving the lives of all segments of our society and economy.

In Solidarity,

Rusty Hicks
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

cc: Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
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