



Clergy & Laity United
for Economic Justice

Board of Directors

Norman Copeland, Chair
So Cal AME Church

The Rev. Frank Alton
Rector, Congregation of St.
Athanasius at the Cathedral
Center of St. Paul

Robert A. Branch
Executive Board Member / SEIU-
USWW/Security Division

Shukry Cattan
UCLA Labor Center

Rabbi Dr. Aryeh Cohen
Professor, American Jewish Univ.

Rev. Jim Conn (Ret.), Dev't
United Methodist Church

Rabbi Stephen Einstein
Founding Rabbi Emeritus,
Congregation B'nai Tzedek

Bea Fonseca
Organizer, Fight For 15

The Rev. Francisco Garcia
Treasurer
Priest, Holy Faith
Episcopal Church

Father Mike Gutierrez
St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church, Baldwin Park

Rev. Sarah Halverson-Cano
Fairview Community Church

Betty Hung, Esq.
Asian Americans Advancing
Justice

Glyndanna Shevlin
Disney Worker, UNITE-HERE

Rev. William D. Smart, Jr.
Vice Chair, Secretary
SCLC of Greater Los Angeles

Rev. Heidi Worthen-Gamble
Presbytery of the Pacific

Richard Zaldivar
The Wall Las Memorias Project

December 9, 2016
Honorable City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for the Legalization of Street Vending

Dear City Councilmembers,

The CLUE P♀WER (People Organizing for Women's Economic Rights) wishes to express its strong support for the Los Angeles City Council's consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate sidewalk vending in Los Angeles. As an organization that stands in solidarity with women facing discrimination as workers, we lift up the legalization of street vending so that women can perform dignified work that promotes safety, fairness and justice and that mitigates the negative impacts of the informal economy.

CLUE P♀WER's mission is to connect, educate and organize about the role and power of women in the economy, represented in the multifaceted economic contributions of women, and honoring the sacredness of the human body, fair pay and fair working conditions for all. We lift up a voice of solidarity with women facing any form of discrimination or diminished power as workers that results in unequal opportunities and burden.

Sidewalk vending amasses over \$500 million in local economic stimulus, according to the Economic Roundtable. Legalizing sidewalk vending is about bringing this sizable informal economy into the formal economy. Though as an extensive demographic information is hard to come by, some local studies estimate that **90% of LA's sidewalk vendors are women**, almost entirely women of color, many of whom are also immigrants. For women who struggle to find work in the formal economy, street vending offers flexibility (helpful for women who care for children also), has few barriers of entry and can serve as an entry point to long-term business ownership. In most cases, vendors are the primary source of income in their families.

In addition to the entrepreneurship opportunities, sidewalk vending can:

- Offer **fresh and culturally relevant foods**, the mobile nature of the business can **expand access to nutritious food** in LA's food desert neighborhoods
- **Make city sidewalks vibrant** and more **pedestrian-friendly**
- Support **public safety** by bringing more "eyes to the street"

However, street vendors face many challenges: encounter unsteady and insufficient income, poor work conditions and, in Los Angeles, a lack of legal recognition or protection. Enforcement of the law is often arbitrary and vendors face the persistent possibility of having their goods confiscated which can be a traumatic, degrading and economically damaging event.

Though the challenges vendors confront have been documented broadly, the specific hardships afflicting women vendors are widely absent from public discourse:

- **Bribes and harassment.** Vendors compete for prime, high-traffic locations. In neighborhoods with widespread gang activity, vendors may even pay for spaces. Women are especially vulnerable to these activities and frequently face physical threats.
- **Lack of safety in public spaces.** The work of street vendors takes place in public spaces; perceived lack of safety governs how women interact in public spaces. Women vendors often lack child care options and consequently bring their children with them to work, forcing them to care for their children in spaces that are often unsafe.

The city estimates that Los Angeles is home to over 50,000 sidewalk vendors; 50,000 vendors that are working in the shadows. On behalf of women of color vendors who this sector, we ask you to acknowledge the particular challenges women face in this line of work and we urge the City of Los Angeles to pass an ordinance for permitted sidewalk vending with expediency.

Sincerely,
CLUE P♀WER

Clare Fox



Executive Director, Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Aquilina Soriano Versoza



Executive Director, Pilipino Workers Center

Grace R. Dyrness



Institute for Transnational Research and Development

Rabbi Jonathan Klein



Executive Director, Clergy and Laity United For Economic Justice

Judy Glass
CLUE SVF Committee

Sandie Richards
First United Methodist Church of San Fernando

Leslie Gersicoff
Executive Director, Jewish Labor Committee

Samantha Gupta
Interfaith Chaplain

Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes Wickett
United Methodist, Retired Clergy

Rev. Margaret H. McCauley
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Amanda Zeidner
Occidental College

Olivia Valicenti
Occidental College

Katharine Tobler
Occidental College



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: CF 13-493 support legalization of citywide vending

2 messages

John White <john.white@lacity.org>
To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 11:11 AM

please print and attach the email below to CF 13-1493 as a communication from the public

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rebecca Gitlin** <rebecca.gitlin@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 11:10 AM
Subject: CF 13-493 support legalization of citywide vending
To: John.White@lacity.org

I'm a voter in the city of Los Angeles and I strongly support the legalization of street vending, especially the proposal put forward by the LA Street Vendor Coalition. I live in the neighborhood of North Hollywood/Studio City.

Specifically, I think that:

1. The ordinance SHOULD
 - Immediately eliminate criminal sanctions for violations any vending regulation
 - Apply citywide
 - Establish legal hours of operation that are the same as the area's brick and mortar businesses
2. The ordinance should NOT
 - Allow for confiscation of vendor property in any circumstance
 - Allow for inquiries into an applicant's immigration or citizenship status
 - Require that vendors obtain permission from an adjacent business
 - Include an across-the-board maximum of two vendors per block
3. The city should establish an amnesty program for pending and prior street vending convictions.

Now more than ever, we need to protect the hard-working immigrants who make our city such a vibrant place to live. And if that means, great healthy food like fresh fruit on every corner, even better!

Thank you for your consideration!

Warmly,

Rebecca Gitlin

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





John White <john.white@lacity.org>
To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 11:43 AM

please print and attach the email below to CF 13-1493 as a communication from the public

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephanie Flores Baru** <sflores87@live.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 11:38 AM
Subject: CF 13-493 support legalization of citywide vending
To: "John.White@lacity.org" <John.White@lacity.org>

Hi,

I'm a voter in the city of Los Angeles and I strongly support the legalization of street vending, especially the proposal put forward by the LA Street Vendor Coalition. I live in the neighborhood of Fairfax district.

Specifically, I think that:

1. The ordinance SHOULD

- Immediately eliminate criminal sanctions for violations any vending regulation
- Apply citywide
- Establish legal hours of operation that are the same as the area's brick and mortar businesses

2. The ordinance should NOT

- Allow for confiscation of vendor property in any circumstance
- Allow for inquiries into an applicant's immigration or citizenship status
- Require that vendors obtain permission from an adjacent business
- Include an across-the-board maximum of two vendors per block

3. The city should establish an amnesty program for pending and prior street vending convictions.

Now more than ever, we need to protect the hard-working immigrants who make our city such a vibrant place to live. And if that means, great healthy food like fresh fruit on every corner, even better!

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Stephanie Flores Baru

John A. White
Legislative Assistant

Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
Housing Committee
(213) 978-1072

