



# Central City East Association

Los Angeles Downtown Industrial District  
Business Improvement District

November 19, 2014

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City of Los Angeles  
Attn: Richard Williams and Felipe Chavez  
LOS ANGELES CITY HALL  
200. N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Street Vending

My name is Raquel, Executive Director for the Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District (BID). The BID represents 44 blocks (San Pedro to Alameda; 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and Olympic) of industry, residential, and retail in the eastern portion of Downtown Los Angeles. This District also encompasses the area known as "Skid Row". The street vending issue is of major concern to the stakeholders in this District because it presents public safety and enforcement issues.

Skid Row has the largest population of homeless individuals and sidewalk dwelling. This area is already plagued with a mixed bag of public safety issues, and the last thing it needs to add to that equation is street vending. Street vendors will definitely become easy targets for crimes of opportunity because of the cash on hand. I implore you to exempt this area from street vending consideration. It would be a very big mistake. Just take a look at LAPD statistics on aggravated assaults, theft, and battery in the Skid Row area.

Secondly, Enforcement is vital to any regulated industry and without it, plans fail, and the BIDs/stakeholders will be left to deal with a mess that negatively impacts our District. My stakeholders are not optimistic about the success of legalizing nor creating regulations for street vending through a permitting process because enforcement does not exist. Most of the vendors will not play by the rules. Why pay for a permit when you don't have to and no one is going to hold you accountable? Besides, the City doesn't have the resources for enforcement.

Please do not adopt a practice of legalizing or conforming to illegal practices that have become uncontrollable for the City. It's likening to weighing sins.

Cordially,

Raquel K. Beard  
Executive Director