

L.A. KITCHEN

revealing the power of food

November 25, 2014

Honorable City Council
c/o: Office of the City Clerk
Attn: Richard Williams and Felipe Chavez
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012.

RE: Support for proposed Sidewalk Vending Program, Los Angeles City Council File #13-1493

Honorable City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the L.A. Kitchen to express support for the City of Los Angeles' consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate sidewalk vending in Los Angeles. As a member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's stakeholder network of over 280 organizations, we have committed to making Los Angeles a "Good Food" region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, sustainable and fair.

Legalized sidewalk vending will support increased availability of healthy food in underserved communities, encourage local economic development, and create safer, more vibrant streets. There are an estimated 10,000 street vendors in Los Angeles, many of whom provide fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy culturally-relevant food in neighborhoods with limited healthy food options. These street vendors operate outside of the formal economy, because the City currently lacks a process to recognize and support these entrepreneurs. By developing a permit process with a humane enforcement strategy, the City could give these small business owners an opportunity to make an honest living, and offer incentives to encourage more street vendors to become healthy food entrepreneurs.

We express our strong support for a sidewalk vending ordinance that creates the following:

- **A Citywide permit process for food and non-food sidewalk vending.** This process should consider the cost of the program for the City and the financial capacity of low-income vendors. In order for vendors across the City to have a real incentive to participate, any policy that is put forth must apply to all areas of the city.
- **Incentives for different types of healthy food vending,** including but not limited to, fresh fruit, produce, water and healthy snacks. Examples of incentives offered to healthy food vendors should include reduced permit fees, special access to events sponsored by the City and exclusive vending areas such as around schools and in front of hospitals.
- **Responsible and humane enforcement** focused on education and training first, that avoids arrests or excessive criminalization of vendors.

As community food advocates, we support street food vendors because we know they play an important role in addressing inequitable access to healthy food, and they are a vibrant part of our local food economy. By legalizing sidewalk vending, the City of LA creates jobs, supports local food entrepreneurs and activates the vibrancy and safety of the streets. On behalf of the thousands of vendors we work with and support, we the City of Los Angeles to pass a sidewalk vending ordinance with expediency.

Sincerely,

Robert Egger
President/CEO

Neither food nor people should ever go to waste.

LAKitchen.org • join@lakitchen.org • tw: @thelakitchen • fb: /thelakitchen

P.O. Box 31345, Los Angeles, California 90031

Stakeholder Network Member, Los Angeles Food Policy Council

CC:

Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Tom LaBonge
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Joe Buscaino

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Pacoima Beautiful

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

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I am writing on behalf of the Pacoima Beautiful, to express support for the City of Los Angeles' consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate sidewalk vending in Los Angeles. As a member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's stakeholder network of over 280 organizations, we have committed to making Los Angeles a "Good Food" region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, sustainable and fair.

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Sincerely,



Veronica Padilla

Executive Director

Pacoima Beautiful

Stakeholder Network Member, Los Angeles Food Policy Council

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