



November 7, 2017

Councilmember Curren Price, Jr.  
Chair, Economic Development Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 420  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld.  
Chair, Public Works and Gang Reduction  
Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: East Hollywood Business Improvement District Concerns with proposal to legalize sidewalk vending in Los Angeles**

On behalf of the East Hollywood Business Improvement District (EHBID), I am writing to share my concerns with the proposal for city-wide legalization of sidewalk vending in Los Angeles.

The East Hollywood BID remains extremely concerned about what the effects of the proposed program to legalize street vending city-wide would mean to the East Hollywood Business Community. The EHBID, along with CD-13, LAPD, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and local stakeholders have been working tirelessly to curb illegal vending in the community and regain control of our public sidewalks. The BID commonly receives complaints from businesses and residents alike about the proliferation of illegal vendors along Vermont Ave. This has led to the creation of a BID program to place "No Vending Signs throughout our Improvement District Boundaries in hopes of deterring some of the illegal vending activities that regularly impede pedestrian traffic on this highly traveled corridor.

The City, LAPD, and County departments that oversee vending do not have enough staff resources as is, to properly enforce existing vendors. Legalization of street vending will only serve to exacerbate an already out of hand problem in East Hollywood. Having witnessed first-hand what inadequate enforcement of existing vendors already means for East Hollywood businesses, I implore the City Council to ensure that robust funding for enforcement be a top priority in the ordinance that is adopted. ***The enforcement model adopted should provide adequate resources for both complaint-driven and proactive enforcement throughout East Hollywood. Staffing levels for enforcement of the ordinance MUST go above and beyond what is currently provided through the Bureau of Street Services.***

With regard to implementation of the Sidewalk Vending program, the recently released CLA report recommends that current enforcement levels remain in place for eighteen months after the ordinance is adopted. ***Retaining the status quo enforcement levels for East Hollywood for an additional year and a half is unacceptable! Without "real" enforcement in place from day one, there is no reason for a vendor to comply with the registration process.***

EHBID.ORG

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Allowing this situation to continue for an additional year and half with no increased enforcement will undoubtedly continue to hurt many East Hollywood businesses. It is imperative that enforcement of this ordinance not remain at the status quo level for such a lengthy period of time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Nicole Shahanian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Shahanian  
Executive Director