Honorable City Council

c/o: Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012.

May 1st, 2014

RE: Motion and Analysis regarding Street Vending Program, #13-1493

Honorable City Council,

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the City of Los Angeles’ consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate street vending in Los Angeles. My organization, LA2050 is an initiative to create a shared vision of success for the future of Los Angeles, and to drive and track progress toward that vision.

My team and I are also members of the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, a citywide coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations advocating on behalf of more than 10,000 street vendors in Los Angeles. These street vendors currently operate outside of the formal economy because the City lacks a process that both recognizes and supports these micro-entrepreneurs. We believe that by developing a permit process with competent enforcement strategies, the City could give these small business owners an opportunity to make an honest living, encourage healthy eating, and create safer more vibrant streets.

Specifically, we support the following components of a vending ordinance:

• A Citywide permit process for food and non-food vending. This process should consider the cost of enforcement, revenue opportunities 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, cut fruit, produce, and water.
• Responsible and humane enforcement, reducing punishment of illegal vending from a misdemeanor to an infraction, avoiding arrests and exorbitant fines. The campaign has outlined a tiered system of enforcement that maximizes the potential of participation by vendors all over the City.

A detailed summary of these points has been submitted to the lead Legislative Analyst, Felipe Valladolid Chavez in the form of a policy memo.

On behalf of the thousands of vendors we work with and represent, we are committed to forging a strong partnership with the City of Los Angeles that brings this important economic sector out of the shadows. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shauna Nep
Social Innovation Manager, LA2050
3104903272
May 1, 2014

Honorable City Council
c/o: Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Sent via e-mail to Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org

RE: Motion and Analysis regarding Street Vending Program, #13-1493

Honorable City Council,

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the City of Los Angeles’ consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate street vending in Los Angeles. My organization, Little Tokyo Service Center CDC, is committed to improving the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social services; strengthening neighborhoods through housing and community development; and promoting the rich heritage of the ethnic community.

Little Tokyo Service Center CDC is also a member of the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, a citywide coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations advocating on behalf of more than 10,000 street vendors in Los Angeles. These street vendors currently operate outside of the formal economy because the City lacks a process that both recognizes and supports these micro-entrepreneurs. We believe that by developing a permit process with competent enforcement strategies, the City could give these small business owners an opportunity to make an honest living, encourage healthy eating, and create safer more vibrant streets.

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Sincerely,

Rémy De La Peza
Senior Planner & Policy Counsel
Little Tokyo Service Center CDC

cc: Hon. Jose Huizar, City Councilmember District 14
    Mike Dennis, East LA Community Corporation
RE: Motion and Analysis regarding Street Vending Program, #13-1493

Honorable City Council,

I am writing to express support for the City of Los Angeles’ consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate street vending in Los Angeles. I am the President and CEO of Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), which builds grassroots power to create social and economic justice for low-income families in Los Angeles. SCOPE organizes communities, develops leaders, collaborates through strategic alliances, builds capacity through training programs, and educates South LA’s residents to have an active role in shaping policies that affect the quality of life in our region.

SCOPE is also a member of the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, a citywide coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations advocating on behalf of more than 10,000 street vendors in Los Angeles. These street vendors currently operate outside of the formal economy because the City lacks a process that both recognizes and supports these micro-entrepreneurs. We believe that by developing a permit process with competent enforcement strategies, the City could give these small business owners an opportunity to make an honest living, encourage healthy eating, and create safer more vibrant streets.

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Sincerely,

Gloria Walton
President & CEO
323-789-7920
May 1, 2014

RE: Motion and Analysis regarding Street Vending Program, #13-1493

Honorable City Council,

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the City of Los Angeles’ consideration of a citywide program that would legalize and regulate street vending in Los Angeles. The Bus Riders Union is a city-wide civil rights, environmental justice grassroots organization with a 20-year history of working for first-class public transit and addressing the totality of urban life for LA’s multi-racial working class. Our membership base spans across South LA, East LA, Pico Union, Koreatown, and the eastern San Fernando Valley, including street vendors, domestic and homecare workers, security officers, janitors, hotel workers, and many unemployed people. We understand the economic and social conditions that lead or force people to choose to make a livelihood outside of the formal economy.

The Bus Riders Union is a member of the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, a citywide coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations advocating on behalf of more than 10,000 street vendors in Los Angeles. These street vendors currently operate outside of the formal economy because the City lacks a process that both recognizes and supports these micro-entrepreneurs. We believe that by developing a permit process with competent enforcement strategies, the City could give these small business owners an opportunity to make an honest living, encourage healthy eating, and create safer more vibrant streets.

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On behalf of the thousands of vendors, we work with and represent, we are committed to forging a strong partnership with the City of Los Angeles that brings this important economic sector out of the shadows. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lott-Holland, Rosa Miranda, Eric Romann
Bus Riders Union Co-Chair, Senior Organizer, Senior Organizer

CC: Members of the Los Angeles City Council