



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Sidewalk Vending

Martin Schlageter <martin.schlageter@lacity.org>

Tue, May 13, 2014 at 6:00 PM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Cc: Felipe Chavez <felipe.v.chavez@lacity.org>, Raquel Beard <rbeard@centralcityeast.org>

Richard,

Please include this to the council file for 13-1493. Ms. Beard asked that her email be part of the record. Thank you.

Felipe,

Please add Ms. Beard to any stakeholder list you have compiled so that she may participate in future meetings, as appropriate. Thank you.

Martin

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

From: **Raquel Beard** <rbeard@centralcityeast.org>

Date: Tue, May 13, 2014 at 4:27 PM

Subject: Sidewalk Vending

Unfortunately, I was unable to enter the meeting today due to the large number of people in attendance. I hope this email is acceptable in expressing the views of legalizing vending for the Skid Row area. I never thought that I would need to weigh in on this issue, because food vending has never been an issue in Skid Row. However, last week I saw a couple of food street vendors in Skid Row. The huge number of people living on the sidewalks usually deter food vendors from selling in the area. Two little old ladies stationed themselves right outside a couple of businesses on Stanford. The ladies didn't get much business, but this still caused great concern for me because robbery is a very common crime in Skid Row. Vendors having cash in their possession will lead to crimes of opportunity. BID officers were able to convince the little ladies to leave the area, simply because it's not safe for them.

From the Industrial District's point of view the public safety issue is the biggest concern.

In addition:

1. Skid Row cannot afford any additional people blocking the sidewalk or taking parking spaces away from employees, residents, and customers, we have plenty of people doing that already.
2. Most importantly street vendors open themselves up to becoming victims of robbery and assaults because of the cash they carry. Again, the top crimes in Skid Row aside from drugs, are robbery and theft.
3. Illegal vending will only add more confusion to the Skid Row area, as we continually fight to improve the area.

Skid Row should definitely be exempted as a designated area for any type of street vending.

Unfortunately, the BID and LAPD already fight to clear the area of the illegal vendors selling beer, cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, and dvd's.

The BID also deal with public feedings from church groups and other organizations, in which we have to clean up the mess and trash left behind daily. I have no doubt that street vending would cause some of the same, because although the BID has 33 trash cans placed throughout the District people seem to throw their trash everywhere but inside the cans.

If vending is legalized, I hope that my request to exempt Skid Row is considered.

Thank you,

Raquel K. Beard, Executive Director

Central City East Association

Downtown Industrial District BID

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