

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Johanna Sanchez

Phone Number: [310-617-1832](tel:310-617-1832)

Email: Banana7@hotmail.com

Date of NC Board Action: 07/03/2014

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 07/29/2014

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1493

Agenda Date: 7/03/2014

Item Number:

Brief Summary: On July 3, 2014, a duly noticed Brown-Act compliant general Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council meeting, the Board voted to support legalization of sidewalk vending with the appropriate regulations and safeguards in place as outlined in the attached approved letter to the City Council. The Board voted with 12 members in support with 1 abstention.

Additional Information: If there are questions, please contact Johanna Sanchez at [310-617-1832](tel:310-617-1832)

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT
200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

OFFICERS

Monica Alcaraz PRESIDENT
Aaron Salcido FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Diego R. Silva SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Joan Potter TREASURER
Johanna Sanchez SECRETARY

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Liz Amsden, Manuel Avila, Linda (Boo) Caban, Javier Cabral,
Jessica Ceballos, Graeme Flegenheimer, Mauro Garcia, Susanne
Huerta, Stanley Moore, Amirah Noaman, Miguel Ramos,
Miranda Rodriguez, Harvey Slater, Fernando Villa

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Monica Alcaraz EXECUTIVE
Joan Potter BUDGET and FINANCE
Diego Silva - OUTREACH
Vacant - RULES
Harvey Slater - LAND USE
Monica Alcaraz- SAFETY
Aaron Salcido - BEUTIFICATION

July 4, 2014

Dear Los Angeles City Council and Committees

RE: Council File Number 13-1493

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. On behalf of our stakeholders we are submitting letter in support of Council File Number 13-1493 (City of Los Angeles Street Vending Policy), which would legalize street vending. Under the current law in the City of Los Angeles, street vending is illegal, making L.A. the only major U.S. city without a system that allows micro-entrepreneurs to use our public spaces to help their businesses flourish (KCET). Portland, New York, Philadelphia, Dallas, and Seattle have already passed laws regulating street vending.

Street vending is a vital part and adds value to the economy of the community and city under the proper amount of regulation. A vibrant street vendor system offers multiple benefits: active public spaces that keep eyes on the street to make our communities safer and entrepreneurship opportunities for people who want to open a small business. Vendors are usually small businesspeople struggling to make ends meet. Most are immigrants and people of color. There are an estimated 10,000 street vendors working in Los Angeles County, and a large percentage of them are within the city of Los Angeles. (LA Times). For those food vendors who are eager to play by the rules — who get a health permit from the county's Street Vending Compliance Program — still face the possibility of fines, confiscated equipment or jail because the city bars them from selling their goods on the sidewalk.

In order to ensure the safety of patrons and ensure a vibrant vendor economy in Los Angeles the HHPNC requests the City Council explore the following safeguards:

- Los Angeles County will need to expand its inspection system to ensure that food sold by a permitted vendor is prepared in a safe, healthy manner.
- Permitted vendors should face the same random inspections as restaurants and food trucks.

- Pushcart operators should pay reasonable licensing fees as well as taxes. However the city will have to create a permit system that doesn't burden vendors with so much regulation they go back "underground."
- Vendors will be responsible for their garbage and community impact.
- The city will need a strong enforcement mechanism to find those who are in non-compliance.
- The city may want to consider capping the number of vendors in any particular area for sidewalk safety.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support legalizing street vending in the City of Los Angeles with the proper amount of regulation and safeguards as enumerated above.

Sincerely,



Monica Alcaraz, President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council