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## Street Vending Issue-- A letter of concern regarding Hollywood

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To: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org, richard.williams@lacity.org

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Dear City Councilmembers:

As a 28 year member of the Hollywood Business Community, and Hollywood Chamber Board Officer- I strongly urge you to oppose any "one-size fits all approach" for the legalization of sidewalk vending in Los Angeles.

Hollywood Boulevard is the most famous street in the world and is home to some of LA's most crowded sidewalks. With tens-of-thousands of visitors each day, Hollywood is a unique area of the City with very specific public safety concerns surrounding the use of its sidewalks and protection of the Walk of Fame. Hollywood Boulevard is already struggling with an overabundance of mobile food-carts, cd-vendors, street characters, and tour bus solicitors and cannot afford the increase in the number of street vendors that legalization of sidewalk vending would undoubtedly bring. 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 Hollywood and on the Walk of Fame.

Above and beyond the SIGNIFICANT public safety concerns with the legalization of street vending, I am also concerned about the impacts of a citywide ordinance on Hollywood's brick and mortar establishments. Nearly all of Hollywood and East Hollywood lie within City approved Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Similar to the existing problems that many Hollywood restaurants have with food trucks parking adjacent to their buildings and pilfering restaurant clientele, I am concerned that established Hollywood businesses will now be faced with trying to remain competitive in the face of a slew of retail and food carts.

Despite the arguments of well-intentioned proponents that a regulated system of registration and taxation, would bring vendors out of the shadows and allow them to contribute to the local economy- these carts and street vendors are a serious threat to the Hollywood community. These carts take cash only, are hard to inspect for the health department because they are mobile, don't contribute to the City's tax base, don't pay rent, don't pay BID assessments, all while using our maintained streets and sidewalks, trash cans, parking spots, restrooms, and more. Because they do not have the same overhead costs, these mobile carts can undercut the city's existing restaurants and retails establishments. They literally roll in, take the business (and tax dollars) and leave. Meanwhile, many of the tenants who are already struggling to stay in Hollywood will see their revenue decline, from yet another City policy that overlooks what is in the best interest of Los Angeles's small business community. *I ask that any policy allowing for sidewalk vending should at a minimum, allow for an opt-out clause for Business Improvement Districts within the City- where property owners pay an additional assessment to keep their streets clean and safe.*

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important matter.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

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