

## Sidewalk Vending Summary/Background

The Los Angeles City Council has for several years sought to enact an ordinance that would legalize and regulate sidewalk vending (i.e., street cart vendors) in the public right of way – e.g., sidewalks and parkways – throughout the City. The Council has already de-criminalized this activity out of fears that immigrant vendors might otherwise be at risk for deportation. A draft set of additional proposed regulations has been pending in Council committee for some time.

PPCC took a position in 2015 opposed to legalization, but stating that if legalization is to occur, we supported the establishment of special Sidewalk Vending Districts with an opt-in option for neighborhoods that chose to participate, and also insisting on other specific regulatory measures. See our position letter: <http://pacpalicc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/03/letterrevendingppcc.pdf>.

Councilmember Bonin previously advised that he too supported the establishment of such Districts, but with an opt-out provision. The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce and BID have also stated that they support establishment of Sidewalk Vending Districts with either an opt-out or opt-in provision.

This year, a bill was passed in the state legislature and signed by Gov. Brown, SB 946, that legalizes sidewalk vending statewide and does not permit cities to prohibit the activity except on the basis of a specific, objective showing of *direct impact on public health, safety or welfare*. In February 2018, PPCC passed a resolution, as recommended by the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) leadership, opposing SB 946. See: [http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Resolution-to-Oppose-SB-946.rev\\_.pdf](http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Resolution-to-Oppose-SB-946.rev_.pdf).

On July 17, three City Council committees met jointly and directed the City Attorney to draft a revised version of the sidewalk vending ordinance, specifically to bring the regulations in line with the new state law, which will go into effect in January. Among other things, the City will no longer be allowed to impose a cap (such as two vendors per block, as was previously considered), unless on a case-by-case basis a direct impact to public health, safety or welfare can be established. Thus, for example, there can be no limit on the number of street cart vendors on sidewalks anywhere in our commercial areas, including Palisades Village, without the required showing in each case of a direct impact on public health, safety or welfare. It appears that “floating” sidewalk vendors must also be allowed in residential areas on the same basis.

According to a recent LA Times article, the City will attempt to ban sidewalk vending in certain busy, iconic areas, specifically near Dodger Stadium, the Hollywood Bowl, the Staples Center, the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Universal Studios, at the request of certain business groups and corporations such as Anschutz Entertainment Group. Again, any bans must be based on specific public safety, health or welfare impacts.

PPCC will continue to monitor the status of the proposed ordinance.

*Chris Spitz, PPCC Secretary  
October 25, 2018*