

**Background Information:
Restriction on Sidewalk Vending within 500 ft. of Schools**

Specific Sidewalk Vending Condition:

A sidewalk vending operation / “taco” stand recently began operating on Alma Real Dr. in the Palisades, set up on the sidewalk adjacent to the Palisades Branch Library parking lot. Residents and library staff expressed concerns about stand operations blocking pedestrian passage along the sidewalk; the apparent lack of City or County permits and/or licenses; whether food preparation was in compliance with County Health Dept. regulations; potential fire hazard from use of propane tanks or open flames; crowding near the entrance to the library; proximity to schools (Corpus Christi and Village School along Alma Real); and stand customers unlawfully parking in the library lot and taking up parking spaces otherwise used by library patrons and volunteers.

Responding to 3-1-1 requests for service (by CD 11’s Michael Amster and this author, on her own behalf), a Bureau of Street Services (BSS) inspector recently visited the stand, advised the vendor of the applicable rules and regulations, and provided information on how to apply for a permit with the City (the vendor presumably did not have a permit). At this writing the vendor has not returned; it is unknown whether he was informed that a “buffer zone” from vending is in place around schools, per BSS regulations (see below).

LAUSD Position on Sidewalk Vending Near Schools:

In 2009, LAUSD issued a policy bulletin, explaining the various then-relevant City and County Codes which prohibited vending near schools and why vending near schools was a health and safety hazard for students:

“Many school campuses experience problems associated with vendors at or near the school perimeter. Food vendors in particular can pose a serious health risk for our students, and the operation of any vendor can contribute to traffic and pedestrian hazards by obstructing sidewalks and forcing students to walk in the street.”

<https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/106/BUL-4994.0%20VENDORS%20AT%20OR%20NEAR%20SCHOOL%20CAMPUSES%2012.21.2009.pdf>

The author is awaiting word on whether this is currently LAUSD policy and whether LAUSD has a position on the current sidewalk vending lawsuit (referenced below under “Relevant Lawsuit”) and/or the challenges to distance restrictions around schools being raised by the plaintiffs in that lawsuit.

Prior PPCC Positions on Sidewalk Vending:

2015: Opposed proposed legalization of sidewalk vending unless special districts were established with opt-in procedures for communities. See: <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/letterrevendingppcc.pdf>.

2018: Opposed SB 946 –which decriminalized sidewalk vending statewide and imposed vending regulations on municipalities – and reiterated PPCC’s support for local control: https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Resolution-to-Oppose-SB-946.rev_.pdf.

Current Law/Regulations:

LAMC Sec.42.13 provides that sidewalk vending must comply with rules and regulations established by BSS. This author recently learned that BSS’s Rules and Regulations (R&R) appear to restrict sidewalk vending (create a buffer zone) **within 500 ft. of schools**. See: <https://streetsla.lacity.org/sites/default/files/rules%20and%20regulations1.pdf>.

LAMC Sec. 80.73 (cited by LAUSD in the 2009 policy bulletin) also prohibits “catering truck” parking within 500 ft. of schools (former iteration prohibited all food carts and peddling within 500 ft. of schools).

SB 972 (passed in 2022) extended SB 946, further decriminalized sidewalk vending and imposed a regulatory framework on municipalities; in brief, cities may regulate for time, place and manner, but cannot restrict sidewalk vending except where “directly related to objective health, safety and welfare concerns.”

Relevant Lawsuit re City Regulation of Sidewalk Vending:

A lawsuit was filed in 2022 by certain vendors and vending advocacy groups, challenging the City’s vending ordinance, which had carved out “no vending” districts (e.g., areas around Dodger Stadium, LA Live, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, etc.). The City Council then decided to amend the ordinance to eliminate certain specific no-vending districts; however, the BSS R&R distance restrictions (pertaining to schools, farmers markets and swap meets) are still being challenged. The trial has been postponed several times to allow the parties to negotiate a possible settlement (new trial date is May 16). Those discussions are confidential and at this writing the author does not have information as to the status of negotiations or whether the City will agree to eliminate the “buffer zone” around schools. See:

<https://kfiam640.iheart.com/featured/la-local-news/content/2024-02-14-street-vendors-enter-settlement-talks-in-suit-versus-city/>.

Should the Board by a 2/3 vote pass a possible motion to support retaining the 500 ft. buffer zone around schools, this position could be conveyed to Councilwoman Park and other City Councilmembers and PPCC could advocate for the City to retain the restriction, arguing that it is directly related to the health, safety and welfare of students and the community (as reflected in the 2009 LAUSD bulletin).

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