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June 9, 2026

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Dear Pacific Palisades Community Council,

Thank you for your correspondence with the Department of Public Health (Public Health) and for bringing these concerns regarding sidewalk food vending operations in the Pacific Palisades community to our attention. Your concerns were shared with the Environmental Health Division for a response. We appreciate the Pacific Palisades Community Council 's commitment to protecting public health and safety while recognizing the role food access may serve during the ongoing rebuilding efforts.

The Environmental Health Division shares concerns regarding food safety, sanitation, and public health risks associated with unpermitted food operations. We understand the issues raised regarding food temperature control, handwashing, food storage, fire safety, grease disposal, and the use of non-approved equipment and food containers, as well as concerns regarding sidewalk accessibility and impacts to surrounding businesses.

In response to changes in State law decriminalizing sidewalk vending operations, limiting local enforcement mechanisms, and ensuring additional opportunities for unpermitted vendors to enter the permitted economy, Public Health has shifted its enforcement approach. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Public Health has implemented numerous programs to promote legal pathways for vendors to operate safely and

compliantly. These include the development of permits for Compact Mobile Food Operations (CMFOs), Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO), and promoting Temporary Food Facilities at approved community events.

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Public Health has also shifted its strategy with respect to enforcement of unpermitted sidewalk food vending that targeted employees of larger scale operations. Historically, enforcement efforts directed at individual sidewalk vending operations have had limited effectiveness, with vendors returning to sell in nearby locations within hours or days of enforcement activities. In many instances, individuals encountered at street vending operations are employees rather than the responsible parties directing the enterprise and often are preyed upon vulnerable individuals subject to labor violations and/or human trafficking.

As a result, Public Health is focusing enforcement efforts on the larger organizations operating unpermitted food enterprises, including central food preparation and distribution hubs that support multiple sidewalk vending locations. These unpermitted centralized operations often provide food preparation, storage, transportation, and equipment for multiple vendors. By addressing the source of organized unpermitted food activity, Public Health aims to improve long-term compliance and better protect public health. To date, Public Health has worked with law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office to close down operations at 16 unpermitted distribution hubs, resulting in the confiscation of 36 tons of food and citing of the warehouse operators.

The locations and concerns identified in your correspondence will be reviewed and integrated into our ongoing assessment and investigative efforts, as appropriate. Reports involving conditions that may pose an immediate public health concern—including improper food handling, unsafe temperature control, wastewater disposal or fire-related hazards at the central food preparation and distribution hubs—may also be coordinated with relevant partner agencies where jurisdiction applies.

In addition to enforcement, Public Health is expanding outreach and educational efforts to inform consumers about the importance of purchasing food from permitted food facilities and food vendors, including encouraging the public to look for permit postings or letter grades where applicable. This campaign is currently underway, and more information can be found on Public Health's website [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh). Outreach is also underway to promote legal pathways for vendors to operate safely and compliantly, including as mentioned above for CMFOs, MEHKO, and Temporary Food Facilities at approved community events.

We appreciate the information you have provided and your continued partnership in promoting safe food practices within the community.

Sincerely,



Liza Frias, REHS

Director of Environmental Health

LF:jd

c: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health

Hon. Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor, District 3 via email: [thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov)

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles via email: [karen.bass@lacity.org](mailto:karen.bass@lacity.org)

Hon. Traci Park, LA City Councilwoman, District 1 1 via email: [traci.park@lacity.org](mailto:traci.park@lacity.org) Chief Jaime  
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