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Item No.: 1



**Hollywood Property Owners Alliance**  
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~~Item No.~~ Communication from  
the Public

- Hollywood Property Owners Alliance  
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- Mark Stephenson  
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- Kerry Morrison  
Executive Director

December 2, 2014

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 450  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Proposed City of Los Angeles Sidewalk Vending Ordinance

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell,

On behalf of the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance, I would like to express our concern for the city's "work in progress" plan to create a vending ordinance for food and non-food items for the sidewalks and parks of the city. As is the case with many city policies, we would hope the city council would consider options for a community to **opt-out of such a program**. A "one-size fits all approach" for street vending just does not make sense for a city as diverse as Los Angeles.

As you well know, we have ongoing issues with respect to keeping the sidewalks in Hollywood safe, and civil and pleasant for the millions of pedestrians who visit, live and work here annually. Already the city is struggling to enforce existing ordinances – we have problems with illegal hot dog vendors; aggressive tour operators; oppressive street characters and CD vendors who generate numerous complaints. Presumably there are ordinances and laws in place to govern behaviors, but the various enforcement agencies – LAPD, LA County Health, Bureau of Street Services – are hard pressed to carry out meaningful enforcement.

The November 26, 2014 CLA report raises numerous questions that must be taken into consideration. For example, how will taxes and permits be enforced, especially given that this is a cash-only business? We already hear that the County Health Department struggles to regulate food trucks, and has limited enforcement now over hot dog carts; how can the county rise to the occasion to enforce food safety laws? What are the hot water and rest-room requirements for food carts and why should these be different from those imposed upon restaurant operations? Currently BID stakeholders in Hollywood pay for trash receptacles and personnel to remove tons of trash from the sidewalks each year? What protections will be built into this ordinance to ensure food and retail vendors are not utilizing BID-provided receptacles for their trash?

If there are parts of the city clamoring for this amenity in their neighborhood, then we encourage the city to resurrect the original vending district ordinance that was created in 1994. This is not something we are requesting in Hollywood.

Sincerely,

Kerry Morrison  
Executive Director

cc: City Council Economic Development Committee  
HPOA Board of Directors