



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
President, Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St., Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Sidewalk Vending Community Meetings

Dear President Wesson:

We are extremely troubled by the tenor and lack of respect that existed at the sidewalk vending community meeting at the Van Nuys City Hall on June 11, 2015. There was no enforcement of decorum by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) staff running the meeting, creating an intimidating environment for anyone who stated concerns or asked questions about the existing proposal. As a result, a number of people who filled out speaker cards chose not to speak and those who did were subjected to harassment.

Sidewalk vending is a complex issue and this meeting was not productive at garnering public input. Rather a true community process would have sent the proposed framework to community groups and neighborhood councils across the City before public hearings were held.

One of the first speakers, Jay Weitzer, of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association expressed concerns about the lack of details in the proposal and the current lack of enforcement. He was yelled at. When the signal that a minute expired sounded, the room erupted in shouts to "sit down", "shut up", and "time's up." Joyce Dyrektor, a board member on the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, cited the trash and sanitary issues created by vending around the Hollywood Bowl and was subjected to name calling and shouted at during her remarks. This kind of behavior continued throughout the meeting. Several other speakers were hissed at and received catcalls and unfortunately City staff did little to bring order to this City sanctioned meeting.

On a couple of occasions, the CLA staff asked the audience to be courteous and to let everyone speak however, the meeting was never stopped to restore order to allow people to be heard. We had expressed earlier concerns about the CLA conducting public hearings since this is not the typical process for vetting City policy, and our concerns were validated.

The next two meetings are being held on June 18 and 25 and must be properly led by people who can control the meeting and there must be sufficient security present. And, we would ask that members of

the City Council's Economic Development Committee be present at these community meetings to lend legitimacy to this process. We appreciate your attention to this.



Carol E. Schatz
President & CEO
Downtown Center BID



Kerry Morrison
Executive Director
Hollywood Property Owners Alliance

CC: The Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst