

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jennifer Laurent

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**Council File No:** 13-1493-S15

**Comments for Public Posting:** Subject: Opposing the Increase in Sidewalk Vending Permit Costs

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members, I am writing today to express my deep concern regarding the proposed increase in sidewalk vending permit costs from \$291 to \$541. As a resident of Los Angeles, I firmly believe that vendor fees should remain affordable, particularly for low-income and elderly vendors who heavily rely on sidewalk vending as a means of livelihood. The proposed cost increase threatens to create unnecessary barriers and financial burdens that may prevent these individuals from being compliant with city regulations. Sidewalk vending plays a vital role in the vibrant tapestry of our city. It not only provides unique and diverse culinary offerings but also fosters a sense of community and entrepreneurship. Many low-income individuals and elderly vendors depend on sidewalk vending as a primary source of income to support their families and maintain their independence. As a society, we should strive to support and uplift these individuals rather than burden them with exorbitant permit costs. Before implementing any changes to the sidewalk vending permit fees, I urge the City Council to conduct a comprehensive study. This study should assess the potential impact of increased costs on low-income vendors and the elderly, specifically focusing on how it may create barriers to compliance with city regulations. It is essential that the study includes input from actual vendors across Los Angeles, as their firsthand experiences and perspectives are crucial in understanding the potential consequences of such a decision. By engaging with the sidewalk vendors themselves, the City Council will gain invaluable insights into the challenges they face and the feasibility of the proposed increase. It is important to consider alternative solutions that maintain a balance between regulatory compliance and economic accessibility. The well-being of these vendors should be at the forefront of any decision-making process. In conclusion, I implore the City Council to reconsider the proposed increase in sidewalk vending permit costs. Instead, let us prioritize the economic stability and well-being of low-income and elderly vendors by conducting a thorough study that incorporates their voices. Let us work together to find fair and equitable solutions that ensure sidewalk vending remains accessible to all members of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for

your commitment to serving the best interests of Los Angeles and its diverse population. Sincerely, Jennifer Laurent Curator Black Women Vend Night Market 3651 S La Brea Ave #817 Los Angeles, CA 90016