

MOTION

On December 4, 2018, the City Council adopted the Sidewalk Vending ordinance and instructed the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report back with a proposed staffing plan and permit structure, including types of permits, fees, and rules and regulations.

When the CAO conducted the fee study (C.F. 13-1493) to determine an appropriate permit fee for sidewalk and park vending, they used a “full cost recovery” methodology, including costs to enforce the program. Since then the City Council has taken action to increase staff positions for enforcement and amended code section 56.08 which regulates all permitted sidewalk activity. Sidewalk vendors should not be responsible to pay for the costs of the City’s permitted sidewalk activity enforcement.

Throughout the duration of the Sidewalk Vending Program, we have seen vendors experience numerous challenges in obtaining vending permits. Many of these challenges stem from outdated California State laws, which led the City to call on state legislators to update the California Retail Food Code (C.F. 21-0002-S170). Other challenges arose from the financial impacts of the pandemic, which were further exacerbated when sidewalk vendors were largely left out of any federal financial assistance.

In September of 2020, the City implemented a reduced cost permit fee of \$291 in response to the economic impacts the COVID-19 pandemic had on street vendors. The reduced cost fee is set to expire on July 1, 2022, at which time the normal \$541 fee will resume. This increased fee will create a further financial burden for vendors whose average income is approximately \$11,300 a year, according to a report by the Economic Roundtable.

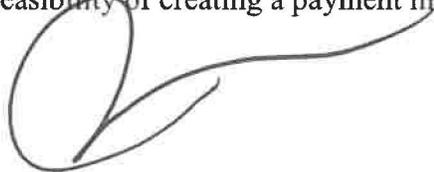
Given that we are still experiencing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and that the original permit fee study needs to be reassessed, the Council should instruct the CAO to conduct a new permit fee assessment and extend the reduced permit fee for an additional year.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer to conduct a new fee study to determine the annual sidewalk and park vending permit fee, that does not include enforcement of permitted sidewalk activities in the assessment, and which takes into account the average annual income of street vendors.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct Streets LA, with assistance of the City Administrative Officer, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Economic and Workforce Development Department, to report back in 60 days on:

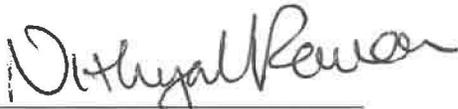
- Financial assistance programs to help street vendors obtain their vending permits and carts; and
- The feasibility of creating a payment installment plan for sidewalk vending permits.

JUN 15 2022



I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Section 42.13.B2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to extend the reduced cost (\$291) of the sidewalk vending operating permit until July 1, 2023.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District



CURREN D. PRICE
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL