

MOTION

After decades in which street vendors in Los Angeles were forced to operate under threat of arrest, City Council took a historic step by legalizing vending in 2018. In recognition that the process of educating street vendors on the new rules and assisting them in obtaining permits would be long and challenging, a moratorium was put in place on enforcement against unpermitted vendors.

But with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, and simultaneous with the closure of the vast majority of businesses across Los Angeles, the City Council adopted a Motion in March to immediately resume enforcement of the ban on unpermitted street vending during the emergency period in order to limit the virus's spread.

As the emergency period has continued, many other forms of retail and dining have been allowed to reopen. Restaurants are now permitted to offer outdoor dining, and have even been allowed to apply for funding to create space where people can eat safely outdoors. Street vending of food, however, remains illegal without a County health permit — which only approximately 90 vendors out of more than 10,000 in Los Angeles County have obtained.

While the City has provided outreach, education, and funding for street vendors to apply for and receive permits, the LA County Department of Public Health has issued a number of requirements for full-food preparation carts that have caused those currently used by vendors to be non-compliant while rendering compliant carts prohibitively expensive. Because StreetsLA will only issue permits to food vendors with a valid County health permit, the vast majority of vendors are unable to obtain one.

Given that the COVID-19 virus is less transmissible outdoors and during brief interactions, street vending is by nature a safer form of food service than indoor or seated outdoor dining. Many families in Los Angeles rely on income brought in by street vending to stay housed and fed, and because a significant number of street vendors are undocumented, they are not eligible for many relief funds offered by the federal government — meaning that a citation can have devastating financial consequences.

For all of the reasons City Council took the important step of legalizing street vending in 2018, and armed with the knowledge we now have of the comparative safety of outdoor food service, it is time to allow vendors to resume their work by lifting the prohibition against unpermitted vending that was imposed in March.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT StreetsLA and the Los Angeles Police Department to reestablish the moratorium on enforcing and issuing citations for vending without a valid license or permit for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency and for six months thereafter, during which time StreetsLA will conduct an extensive education and outreach campaign to the vendors.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT StreetsLA to provide a status update on their discussions with the County Department of Public Health in regards to



MAR 1 6 2021

their cart permit requirements and how the City and the County can collaborate to create a vending program in Los Angeles that allows for the participation of all vendors.

PRESENTED BY :



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District



CURREN PRICE
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY :



GIL CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District