

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jonathan Barrera

**Date Submitted:** 03/25/2021 04:32 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0147-S27

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Jonathan Barrera and I strongly support the moratorium on enforcement of sidewalk vendors. LA City Council voted to legalize street vending with the intention to end the criminalization of poor working people of color and to support more economic opportunity for the thousands of vendors who rely on this work. However, multiple barriers have made it nearly impossible for most food vendors to become permitted under the program. Only two months after the program launched, the city was shut down due to the pandemic. County health permits are extremely costly and the current economic crisis has made it even more difficult for vendors to have the resources to pay for these permits. Even if vendors did have the resources, health code compliant carts don't exist for most foods. Hundreds of street vendors have officially registered their businesses and received their state seller's permits, but they still can't obtain county health permits because code compliant carts don't exist or cost over \$20,000. Vendors shouldn't be penalized for not having permits that are nearly impossible to obtain while having all of the other necessary requirements. And citing them with costly tickets during this economic crisis is setting them up for long-term economic hardship and pushing them further and further away from the hopes of vending legally. I urge you to support the moratorium on enforcement for vending without a license until the COVID-19 State of Emergency is over, and 6 months thereafter, and until the equipment that vendors need to be fully permitted is more affordable and attainable. Thank you.