

Get the facts about regulated street vending

How will regulated sidewalk vending will affect local businesses?

FACT

Claims that vending will harm local businesses are unsupported. In LA, businesses located near sidewalk vendors are actually more likely to experience job growth and maintain higher levels of employment than businesses not located near vending.[1] Direct competition is rare, as fixed costs and inventory considerations cause brick-and-mortar restaurants to offer a different dining experience than sidewalk vendors. In fact, regulated sidewalk vending will *benefit* local businesses. Vending increases foot traffic and stimulates economic activity along commercial corridors. Vendors “buy local,” purchasing supplies from area businesses. And permitted sidewalk vending could provide brick-and-mortar shops and restaurants with a new opportunity to market and expand their business. The LA Street Vendor Campaign has met with hundreds of small local businesses that support legalized sidewalk vending.

Will the food sold by permitted sidewalk vendors be safe?

FACT

A recent study shows that food carts outperform both food trucks and restaurants on food safety inspections. [2] Once legalized, sidewalk vendors will be held to food safety requirements as are other food servers in Los Angeles, and will be subject to permits and inspection by the County Health Department. Incentives will also be offered for vendors that sell fresh fruit and vegetables, bringing healthy options to areas that need them.

Will regulated sidewalk vending increase trash in my neighborhood?

FACT

Sidewalk vending regulations could require vendors to provide a trash receptacle for customer use and dispose of any litter before leaving a location. Claims that vendors will contribute to debris more than any other business are unsupported. Vendors are business owners who recognize that attracting a customer base requires a clean and accessible streetscape.

How will regulated sidewalk vending impact accessibility and street safety?

FACT

Reasonable regulations can require that vendors maintain a clear path for pedestrian traffic and prohibit vending that impedes access to driveways and entrances, making sidewalks safer and more accessible. Vendors give communities more vibrancy and safety by promoting foot traffic, and more eyes on the street mean safer neighborhoods.

What will be the impact of regulated sidewalk vending on our City's budget and our local economy?

FACT

The broader economic impacts of sidewalk vending will outweigh the costs of enforcement and implementation. In addition to direct revenue from annual permit fees, the multiplier effects from street vendor sales reverberate throughout the local economy. According to a recent study by the Economic Roundtable, vending supports over 5,000 full-time jobs. For every \$1 earned by a food vendor, an additional \$1.58 in economic activity is generated, and a regulated permit system for sidewalk vending could result in an additional \$43 million annually in state and local tax revenue.[3]

Street vendors are asking for regulation and effective enforcement to ensure a fair and safe marketplace. Every major U.S. city, with the exception of Los Angeles, has a system to permit and regulate sidewalk vending.

Need more facts about regulated street vending?

Contact the LA Street Vendor Campaign at 323-604-1960

[1] Economic Roundtable, "Impact of Street Vendors on Brick and Mortars," March, 2015

[2] Andrea C. Erikson, Institute for Justice, "Street Eats, Safe Eats," 2014.

[3] Economic Roundtable, "Economic Impacts of Los Angeles Street Vendors," Dec. 2, 2014.