

LASVC Coalition Updates

June 2019

Since September of last year, a lot has happened. There were some major milestones reached, and some new challenges posed. In this sheet, you will find what we have achieved so far, and what we are working on next. Please reach out to us to stay up to date, and if you are interested to help us plan for the coming months of advocacy for a truly equitable permit program in LA.

MAJOR MILESTONES

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SB 946, the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act, was signed in September 2018. It went into effect January 1, 2019.

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The City of Los Angeles legalized sidewalk vending on November 28, 2018. Vending became legal on January 1, 2019 in the City of LA.

SB 946

In September 2018, Jerry Brown signed SB 946 – the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act. It was championed by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara (previously Senator, D-51). It went into effect January 1, 2019. Under this law, cities and counties cannot charge sidewalk vendors with a misdemeanor or an infraction for vending. They must also dismiss any pending charges and past convictions for vending. However, jurisdictions can **regulate** sidewalk vending.

The Meaning of "Regulate"

To "regulate" can mean to set the rules for "time, place, and manner" of vending. This includes things like:

- Hours of operation,
- Distance requirements on sidewalks,
- Limit stationary vending in residential areas and certain parks.

Rules and regulations must be related to "health, safety, or welfare" concerns. Rules can only be enforced through administrative citations – fees that carry no criminal consequences.

Los Angeles Sidewalk Vending Ordinance

After 10 years of advocacy, on November 28, 2018, Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed the motion to legalize street vending!

Starting January 1, 2019, it became legal in LA to vend on sidewalks. A permit plan is expected to roll out January 2020; in the interim, it is legal to vend, but within certain rules and regulations. In the City of LA there are two major sets of rules and regulations for sidewalk vending - sidewalks and parks, governed by the Bureau of Street Services and the Recreation and Parks Department respectively.

Sidewalk Regulations

There is a bare-bones system in place until the full permit system is put in place. Some regulations include 2 to 3 feet from any above ground street equipment (except a fire hydrant where 5 feet distance is required). The distance depends on what the equipment is (such as street light, bench or tree well). Vendors are required to leave 3 feet of space between them. Vendors are also expected to be 20 feet from the entrance of any store, building, theatre, place of worship, or public assembly.

Park Regulations

There is a strong need for continued advocacy around park regulations. The rules are very strict for vendors and do not allow for more than 2 vendors per acre, and have very stringent requirements for distances from above ground structures such as park benches, fountains, and bathrooms. Some of these requirements also make it nearly impossible for food vendors to vend in parks across the City.

What We Know

It is anticipated that on January 1, 2020, there will be a full permit system in place. It is expected that a third party will be administering the permits; a Request for Proposals for a third party service provider is supposed to be released by the City to open for bid. As of right now, the Bureau of Street Services is in charge of permits, as well as enforcement for sidewalk regulations.

The permit system is **expected to have a hybrid permit program**, where stationary vendors in high-volume areas and parks get a permit while roaming vendors and stationary vendors in low-volume areas do not. This was the recommendation from the Bureau of Street Services and the Chief Legislative Analyst in October of 2018. We will know more once the RFP is released.

What We Want

Because the Request for Proposals has not been released yet, we cannot be sure what the permit program will look like. However, before the ordinance passed in November, we had been pushing for (and will continue to push for) the following:

- **A flexible permit system** with multiple types of permits including a flexible location option for roaming vendors, and a fixed location option for stationary vendors;
- **An “education first” approach** that provides vendors with information on the rules and regulations, and allows for a grace period of enforcement for vendors to comply with new rules;
- **Establishing healthy food incentives**, particularly around schools and parks;
- **Creating Special Vending Districts** and strongly advocating against No Vending Zones.

Ongoing Advocacy!

Despite the passing of the new ordinance, and the legalization of street vending, there is still much advocacy work for us to do. There are many pieces of the systems that make vending inaccessible to many of the vendors we know and love. The major points of advocacy are as follows:

No Vending Zones

We want to make sure that no areas are considered “No Vending Zones” and instead, the use of Special Vending Districts are employed. Bureau of Street Services is conducting pilots of this by working with vendors to understand their existing systems.

Parks

There are many regulations that make it exceedingly difficult for vendors to do work in parks across the City. On many fronts, we are in need of strong and fast advocacy to change these unjust rules.

Carts and Commissaries

There is a dire need for innovation in how the carts will be built. With the current options, it will cost \$15K+ per cart for vendors to get compliant carts. Similarly, the Commissary space is not sufficient for the amount of vendors. We need to be pushing for changes in law that allow for cooking food at home. Luckily, the County’s Department of Public Health and Department of Consumer Business Affairs is doing work around both of these issues. We need to be pushing that conversation in a way that best benefits vendors in the City and in the County.

If you’re on a device that has access to the internet, you can find links to the full City of LA Regulations below:

[Parks Regulations](#)

[City of LA Ordinance](#)

[Sidewalk Regulations](#)



LA STREET
VENDOR
CAMPAIGN

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Lyric Kelkar at lyric@lurnetwork.org or (323)604-9765.

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