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—— Phone: (323) 716-3918 —— Email: hcnnc.board@gmail.com —— Website: hcnnc.org ——

Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council

Request for Action

April 27, 2026

To: Bureau of Street Services, Councilmember Hernandez, Councilmember Jurado, County Supervisor Solis, ASM Gonzalez, SD Durazo, StreetsLA, Bureau of Sanitation, LA County Health Department

Cc: LAPD

Re: Street/Sidewalk Vending

We, the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council, declare that on April 27, 2026, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Historical Cultural North Neighborhood Council with a quorum of 14 board members present, and that by a vote of:

13 yes, 0 no and 1 abstentions, and 0 ineligible the

Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council approved the following Community Impact Statement regarding street/sidewalk vending:

On October 22, 2024, the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council (HCNNC) formally submitted a Community Impact Statement to the Council Office regarding the ongoing issue of unpermitted street vendors and the lack of regulation along the commercial corridor in Chinatown and El Pueblo/Olvera Street.

Nearly two years later, despite repeated outreach and requests from community members, these concerns remain unaddressed.

The continued inaction has resulted in significant and measurable harm to our community, including: A noticeable increase in trash and unsanitary conditions

Public safety risks, including storefront fires reportedly caused by individuals using accumulated debris as fuel

A steady decline in business for established brick-and-mortar establishments that comply with local regulations

These impacts not only threaten the economic stability of the corridor but also undermine public safety, quality of life, and the cultural integrity of these historic districts.

We are formally reissuing this statement to urgently request immediate intervention and enforcement from the Council Offices.

The HCNNC has received multiple complaints from residents, property owners, and business owners regarding the proliferation of sidewalk and street vending in our historic/commercial districts, specifically in Chinatown and El Pueblo/ Olvera Street. The specific areas that are most impacted include Broadway, between College Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue, Main Street in El Pueblo, and adjacent to The Orsini.

The vending that occurs on sidewalks can be divided into two categories:

1. Mobile vendors who set up on the sidewalk, and
2. Brick and mortar shops (in Chinatown) that spread out onto the sidewalk.

Problems & Examples of Violations:

- Obstruction and crowding of sidewalks by vendors and business owners, which restricts ADA access and sometimes forces people to walk in the street.
- Mobile vendors not cleaning up after themselves and their customers, leaving trash and food to rot on the sidewalks, which is not only unsightly and smelly, but attracts rodents.
- A mobile vendor attempting to apply for a retail business license using a Chinese benevolent association's address
- Vendors competing with legacy brick and mortar businesses that are already struggling to survive, which threatens the historic character of our neighborhoods.
- Cars/vending trucks parking all day at metered spaces.
- Cars/vending trucks blocking driveways.
- The Bureau of Street Services does not come out to investigate on weekends without businesses paying an extra fee to request weekend enforcement.
- Large food trucks operating until late into the night (until 3am) with generators adjacent to apartment buildings (next to The Orsini).
- All Street Vendors should be permitted and licensed with the City of Los Angeles
- Street Vendors should not be set up against private property and should not be in front of a storefront or blocking any entrances
- Street Vendors should be at least 5' away from a fire hydrant, red zones and curbs
- Food vendors should have a permit with the County of Los Angeles and should have access to a sink and wash basin and not use private property.

Rules and regulations already exist that make vending on many of the affected streets in our area illegal, but these rules and regulations are not being enforced.

We request actions from our City Departments and council offices and county offices to regulate and enforce street/sidewalk vending on weekdays and on weekends and not to charge local businesses for that enforcement. We also request that the City outreach to vendors and businesses that vending rules will be enforced and advise them as to how they can modify their practices to comply with existing rules and regulations. We also welcome initiatives that may provide alternative opportunities or locations for vendors to legally conduct their business, so as to minimize the negative impacts to our communities.

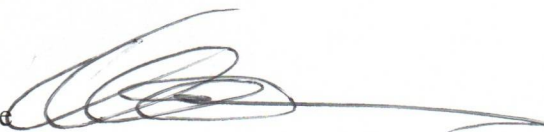
Notwithstanding our calls for enforcement, we do not support complete elimination of street vending for the small businesses in Chinatown that spread out onto the sidewalks. Many businesses have small commercial spaces, and use their sidewalk displays to attract customers, which is common practice in commercial districts throughout the City of LA. We welcome outreach to businesses in Chinatown to limit the amount of space they occupy in front of their stores in order to maintain ADA access and not encroach on other amenities in the public right-of-way such as bus stops, curbside parking, and bike racks.

Our community has demonstrated patience and persistence. However, the lack of response over an extended period is unacceptable given the seriousness of these issues.

We urge the Council Offices to take immediate and decisive action to restore safety, fairness, and vitality to Chinatown and El Pueblo/Olvera Street.

Sincerely,

Wilson Gee

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wilson Gee', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Chair, Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council