

Date: December 23, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Sidewalk Vending and Food Truck Regulations Update**

Over the last several months, multiple City of Long Beach (City) departments have coordinated to make significant progress on efforts to develop regulations for sidewalk vending and food trucks. These departments include Public Works; Health and Human Services; Financial Management; Parks, Recreation and Marine; Economic Development; Development Services; Police; Fire; and the City Attorney and the City Manager Offices. This memorandum is to provide an update on this progress and next steps.

Sidewalk Vending

The effort to develop regulations for sidewalk vendors has been prioritized and expedited due to the need for clarity on regulations for all stakeholders. While regulations are developed, the City has provided an [information flyer](#) to help outline existing requirements for sidewalk vendors, the City's temporary education first approach to enforcement, and the ways in which Senate Bill 946 limits the City's ability to regulate sidewalk vendors.

The City contracted with Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC) to review best practices and to recommend regulations for consideration. From August to December 2022, LWC conducted interviews with all participating departments, developed case studies on comparable cities, reviewed the existing Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC), and provided reports on best practices and potential regulatory options. Staff is reviewing these reports and will consider these options in conjunction with community input when developing recommendations for the City Council's consideration.

Outreach launched in November 2022 and includes a community survey, a series of focus groups, and two community meetings. The survey was open from November 11 to December 18, 2022 and received 2,300 responses. Results are being analyzed and preliminary results are expected to be available in early 2023. The focus groups began in December and are expected to conclude by January 2023. The two community meetings will be open to the public and are expected to occur in January 2023 with additional details to be released as soon as they are available.

In addition to outreach specific to the development of regulations, the Health and Human Services Department has continuously provided education to sidewalk vendors, including an education first enforcement approach as well as a Mobile Food Vendor Health Permit Workshop on December 13 that provided over 70 attendees with

information on how sidewalk vendors and food trucks can obtain a health permit in Long Beach.

Following outreach, staff will prepare recommended regulations for the City Council's consideration in early 2023.

Food Trucks

On August 23, 2022, the City Council received a [report on recommendations from LWC regarding food truck regulations](#). At that time a two-phased approach was discussed in which Phase 1 focused on health safety related amendments to the LBMC, including requiring food trucks operating in Long Beach to have a Long Beach Health Permit and no longer allowing an LA County Health Permit due to lack of regulatory oversight and enforcement challenges. Phase 2 involved developing the remainder of the regulatory program, including location-based regulations and additional permits, if any. After further review, Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be combined for efficiency and will be expected to return to the City Council as one item in Spring 2023.

Staff have been developing regulation recommendations for the City Council's consideration as well as researching potential areas to encourage food truck operation. Depending on the nature of the recommendations, additional outreach will be conducted if needed prior to returning to the City Council in Spring 2023.

Stay Informed

To sign up to receive updates on the sidewalk vending and food truck regulation development processes, including community engagement opportunities, please complete the interest form at <https://bit.ly/clbfoodvendor>.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Ramirez, Acting Food Truck/Sidewalk Vending Coordinator, at (562) 570-5935 or Daniel.Ramirez@longbeach.gov.

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