



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A

SMD 1A01 – Layla Bonnot
SMD 1A04 – Chris Hall
SMD 1A07 – Mukta Ghorpadey
SMD 1A10 – Rashida Brown

SMD 1A02 – Dieter Lehmann Morales
SMD 1A05 – Christine Miller
SMD 1A08 – Kent C. Boese
SMD 1A11 – Dotti Love Wade

SMD 1A03 – Carlo Perri
SMD 1A06 – Brandolon Barnett
SMD 1A09 – Michael Wray
SMD 1A12 – Vacant

Commissioner Mukta Ghorpadey
ANC 1A07

Commissioner Christine Miller
ANC 1A05

Resolution Requesting Hearing for B24-0049 “The Street Vending Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2021” and B24-0050 “Sidewalk Vending Zones Amendment Act of 2021”

Whereas: In February 2021, DC Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau introduced two bills that would take positive steps toward reforming the most violent aspects of DC’s street vending laws.

Whereas: The Street Vending Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2021 (B24-0049) would remove criminal penalties for vending without a proper license. Unlicensed selling would remain a civil infraction enforced by the city’s Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

Whereas: The second vendor reform bill, the Sidewalk Vending Zones Amendment Act of 2021 (B24-0050), would amend the city’s Vending Regulations Act of 2009 to establish designated zones for sidewalk selling, and allow vendors to apply to the Mayor’s office to establish new zones. Included in the bill is a proposal for a Columbia Heights Sidewalk Vending Zone, which would encompass six vending spaces and include up to 57 total vendors.

Whereas: B24-0049 ensures the decriminalization of street vending, which will act as a deterrent to escalation between the community and police. B24-0050 also creates pathways to licensing through two special licenses — one that can be held by an individual vendor, and another that can be obtained by nonprofits and cooperatives that manage sidewalk sellers. Once registered, licensed sellers could operate and move within vending zones. Any vendor who receives a license under the new bill (if passed) would be granted amnesty, retroactively for up to five years, for any unpaid civil citations.

Whereas: As detailed in a report on street vending in DC titled, “[Where the Sidewalk Ends](#),” published in February 2021 by the Beloved Community Incubator with the American University Washington College of Law Community and Economic Development Law Clinic, the rules and regulations governing street and sidewalk vending in DC are a complex maze that vendors must follow in order to not face civil or criminal penalty. This incredibly long list of required rules and regulations gives the police immense discretion to disrupt vendors on the street and sidewalk. As a result, vendors experience heightened fear, uncertainty, and instability in their livelihoods.

Whereas: The DC Police Reform Commission, in their Full Report published in April 2021, recommended that the Council decriminalize low-level offenses including illegal street vending and



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panhandling. The Reform Commission wrote, “too often, the District police, arrests, and jails low-income residents for engaging in “crimes of survival,” behaviors that are the result of failures of the social safety net and that have no impact on public safety.

Whereas: Enforcement of DC’s current street vending regime has a massive disproportionate racial impact and is an urgent civil rights issue. An overwhelming majority, more than 95 percent, of vendors in our community are Latine and/or Black. .

Whereas: Street vendors in our community face serious collateral consequences arising from the criminalization of street vending. These consequences have wide-ranging effects on an individual’s ability to secure employment or housing, maintain their tenuous immigration status, and maintain eligibility for government resources. For example, the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs will often deny a vendor’s initial application or a renewal application for a Vending Business License if the vendor has a conviction for vending without a license. A criminal citation for illegal street vending can limit a vendor’s access to employment and housing. And, for many immigrant street vendors, a criminal penalty from street vending can render them and their families vulnerable to Immigration and Customs Enforcement proceedings.

Whereas: ANC 1A continues its support for the decriminalization of street vending and the overhaul of the street vending licensing process. These laws will ensure that street vendors, hard-working and vital members of our community, deserve the workplace protections and structural conditions needed to promote their economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, and cultural expression.

Therefore, be it resolved that: ANC 1A requests Council hold a public hearing on B24-0049 and B24-0050 and move forward to a vote within this calendar year.

And be it finally resolved that: The Chair of ANC 1A, or any member of the Executive Committee or designee in their absence, shall be authorized to communicate this resolution to the members of the Council of the District of Columbia and all governmental agencies.

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Certification:

At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on May 11, 2022 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A considered the above resolution. With a quorum of 9 Commissioners present, the Commission voted with 9 yea’s, 0 no’s, and 0 abstentions to adopt the above resolution.