



Update on Sidewalk Vendors

Community & Economic Development

Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee

May 27, 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. Senate Bill 946 establishing sidewalk vending regulations in the State of California was adopted in January 2020.
2. Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 5.38 was amended in July 2020 to comply with new State Law and regulates sidewalk and pedestrian vending activity.
3. The City's existing sidewalk vending ordinance is in compliance with the California Government Code and currently contains allowances for sidewalk vending activity as long as the proprietor obtains the proper permits and licenses.
4. Restrictions on sidewalk vending must be directly related to an objective health, safety or welfare concern.
5. At the time the City Council amended Chapter 5.38, they also instructed staff to explore other opportunities to regulate sidewalk vending specific to the City of Riverside.



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BACKGROUND

6. Staff performed outreach with all involved City Departments (Police, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Traffic Engineering, City Attorney, Code Enforcement) as well as the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice.
7. Staff brought recommendations to the Committee on January 11, 2021.
8. Committee directed staff to conduct additional community outreach and research other local codes/ordinances and bring it back for further consideration.
9. Staff conducted 2 virtual roundtable meetings to solicit feedback from a broad spectrum of the community and reviewed/compared numerous local codes regarding sidewalk vending.



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BACKGROUND

10. Opinions from the virtual roundtable meetings varied with 3 main perspectives emerging:
 - a. Opportunities for vendors should be increased.
 - b. Stricter enforcement and rules should be applied due to health/safety concerns.
 - c. The City should postpone the discussion for 12 months to allow local restaurants to recover from COVID-19 challenges without added competition.



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DISCUSSION

The City may amend regulations tailored to the needs of the City as long as these restrictions have a direct relation to an objective health/safety concern.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Loosen current regulations OR restrict current regulations OR postpone consideration of either loosening restrictions or adding restrictions
2. Remove requirement for Social Security Number on permit application.
3. Remove discretionary language from permit approval section.
4. Create timeline for permittee to notify Permit Officer of changes to application to reduce ambiguity in code.
5. Allow permittee that was denied permit to appeal to legislative body instead of City Manager's Office.
6. Extend time limits for roaming vendors in residential zones from 10 to 30 minutes.



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DISCUSSION

7. Eliminate pushcart dimension requirements as this aspect is self-regulating.
8. Eliminate prohibition on the use of sound making devices to allow sidewalk vendors to announce their presence in neighborhood. Limit prohibition to amplified sound only.
9. Add additional restrictions in the Downtown Entertainment District as outlined
 - a. Prohibit Thursday-Saturday between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M.
 - b. The Downtown Entertainment District area would be defined as the area bounded by Third Street to the east, Tenth Street to the west, Lime Street to the south and Market Street to the north.



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DISCUSSION

10. Add additional Restrictions – Certain Parks as outlined below:

Prohibit sidewalk vending in the following parks and open spaces:

- a. Carlson Dog Park - Food vending would cause potential issues in areas where off leash dogs are present. Arlanza Neighborhood Garden
- b. Designed for community gardening and quiet enjoyment.
- c. Riverwalk Dog Park - Food vending would cause potential issues in areas where off-leash dogs are present
- d. White Park – Designed for passive use and quiet enjoyment.
- e. Box Springs Mountain Open Space
- f. Challen Park Open Space
- g. Mount Rubidoux Park and San Andreas Avenue/Glenwood Drive between Tequesquite Avenue and 14th Street
- h. Pachappa Hill Open Space
- i. Quail Run Open Space
- j. Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park



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DISCUSSION

11. Add additional Right-of-Way Restrictions as outlined below:

- a. Vending shall be prohibited along the portion of Magnolia Avenue, generally within the Arlington Business District, along which bicyclists are currently allowed to share the sidewalk.
 - b. Vending shall be prohibited within any designated bikeway, bike lane, or bicycle parking area.
 - c. Sidewalk vendors shall not obstruct access to public infrastructure including parking meters, parking pay stations, shared mobility parking zones, waste receptacles, etc.
 - d. Vending shall be prohibited adjacent to any portion of the curb designated as a passenger, commercial, or school loading zone via signage and/or curb markings.
 - e. Sidewalk vendors shall maintain an unobstructed 4-ft walking path at all times.
12. Other potential amendments that may arise through the Committee discussion process



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee direct staff to either:

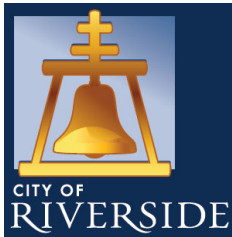
1. Take no further action on the existing sidewalk vendor ordinance (maintain status-quo); or
2. Postpone the discussion for 12 months to allow local businesses an opportunity to recover from COVID-19 related challenges; or
3. Prepare amendments to RMC 5.38 – Sidewalk Vending, to amend current code as directed, for City Council consideration and subsequent approval.



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