



Boyle Heights

Neighborhood Council

Council File No: **20-0147-S27**

January 24, 2021

RE: Coronavirus Outbreak / Covid-19 / Bureau of Street Services / Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) / Prohibit Food Vendors Without Health Permits / Enforce Health Code / Public Right of Way

Dear Mayor Eric Garcetti, CD 14 Councilmember Kevin De Leon, Supervisor Hilda L Solis, Bureau of Street Services, and LA County Department of Public Health,

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council respectfully requests the City of Los Angeles, the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) , and the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) halt its wasteful actions towards local Los Angeles county food vendor's and their products.

On Saturday, January 16th, Sara's Market, a small brick and mortar business located in City Terrace was recently targeted by the BSS and LACDPH. Sara's Market is a mom and pop shop that provides City Terrace, East LA, and Boyle Heights residents with small, local produce like coffee, chorizo, tortillas, and beer/wine. They were targeted for hosting their weekly food vendor pop-ups which they have been hosting for the last 10 months during the pandemic. These weekly pop-ups have allowed vendors from communities of color and disenfranchised communities to make ends meet and stay afloat during the pandemic. The BSS and LACDPH issued citations to the individuals working the event. This citation did not stop BSS and LACDPH from then ultimately destroying hundreds of dollars of raw product that provided for these individuals' livelihoods.

The fact that the BSS would go outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles to enforce policy that the LACDPH refuses to enforce speaks volumes to the internal systems review needed between the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. Furthermore communities of color, who are already at a disadvantage, are continuing to be disproportionately affected by top level decisions. The County of Los Angeles is taking steps to address the racial disparities that have been impacting people of color here in the county, but the county of Los Angeles must also understand that economic inequality is part of the racial inequality that exists



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within our county. They must address the constant attacks on food vendors of color and from marginalized communities in order to promote and provide economic justice for all.

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council condemns wasteful course of action by BSS and LACDH to throw away food during a pandemic and demand that continued efforts to enforce city/county regulations include an educational component and partnership with agencies such as Inclusive Action to assure that vendors are provided with humane and non-wasteful consequences.

Thank you for your time in the matter and we look forward to hearing a response with a course of action to assure these incidents do not continue to happen.

With Respect,
The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council