

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment-Group 3 #3

From: Natalia Govoni <ngovoni24@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 7:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: Unlawful roadside and sidewalk food vending~D#3



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As a business owner in the Eastside District of Santa Barbara, we have been subjected to unpermitted food vending for over two years. These food vendors have operated without health permits, business licenses, and no sanitation measures. Furthermore, they have used the public trash cans and rain gutters to dispose of all their waste and grease while monopolizing the public sidewalks.

The City of Santa Barbara has allowed these vendors to operate without any consequences for way too long and this needs to end now! This has not been fair to restaurant owners who have had to jump through hoops to obtain the required city and health permits to operate their restaurants.

So, I urge all of you members to allow the Police and Fire Departments to do their jobs and seize their food and open flame grills immediately! Create a Task Force that includes Environmental Health, Public Works, Fire Department and the Police Department as this problem needs to be permanently resolved.

Finally, I highly recommend that the County utilize their lobbyists to advocate for policy change in Sacramento as we need our district and city back to a place where fair business practices are practiced and enforced.

Thank you,
Natalia Govoni

Sheila de la Guerra

From: George Fink <gkfink@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 8:09 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Gina Fischer
Subject: Public Comment: Unpermitted Food Vendors

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Concerns Regarding Unpermitted Street Food Vendors

Dear County Supervisors,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my support for Supervisor Hartmann's initiative to form a taskforce to tackle unpermitted food vendors in Santa Barbara County. I am deeply troubled by the proliferation of unlicensed street food vendors in Santa Barbara.

While I appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit and cultural diversity that street food vendors bring, I believe it is essential to address the potential issues that arise from operating without proper licensing. Unlicensed vendors may not adhere to health and safety regulations, which poses significant risks to public health. I have personally witnessed food being removed from 5-gallon buckets with bare hands and transferred to a grill set up in a dirt median. There are no handwashing stations, no refrigeration, or cross-contamination prevention. There are no fire extinguishers present when they are operating outdoor grills. Some of which are propane while others are charcoal. There is very little regard for the environment as trash is thrown on the ground along with food waste. Often, there is a small, gas-powered generator spewing exhaust into the crowd and passersbys, to power the lights.

Brick-and-mortar restaurants often face significant challenges when competing with unlicensed and unregulated establishments. These interlopers can operate with lower overhead costs, as they do not adhere to the same health, safety, and zoning regulations that traditional restaurants must follow. This creates an uneven playing field, making it difficult for licensed restaurants to compete fairly.

Street food vendors are abusing public property without permission. They operate without proper permits, leading to issues such as littering, blocking sidewalks, creating noise, and generating traffic. This can be particularly challenging for brick-and-mortar restaurants that adhere to strict regulations and pay for the use of their space. Public spaces belong to everyone and should not be monetized for private gain without a proper process.

Additionally, street food vendors do not contribute to local taxes, which are vital for maintaining and improving community services.

I urge the County Supervisors to support Supervisor Hartmann's initiative and take appropriate and immediate action to ensure that all street food vendors comply with all safety, licensing & zoning requirements. This will help protect public health, support local businesses that follow the rules, and contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

George K Fink
2932 Serena Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
209-327-6322

Sheila de la Guerra

From: Sebastian Aldana Jr. <sbsebas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:45 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Barbara Andersen; Sebastian Aldana Jr.
Subject: Departmental Agenda Item # 3

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear S.B County Board of Supervisors,

I will try to be as brief as possible. I live in the City of Santa Barbara, District 1. We have not received the proper service to handle the Illegal Food Vending issue in our city from the county nor the city. It's my understanding there is not enough staff or a budget to tackle this problem.

Could you please come up with a dollar amount to run an Illegal Food Vending Task Force properly for one year and start playing hard ball. The current Task Force is just too soft. I have requested the same from the City of SB also. I sure do hope it can be done in short order.

The Santa Barbara Eastside Society co-sponsored a Community Forum about 2 years ago with the City of SB Attorney, City Administration, City Police and County Health Department. About 50 in attendance on how we could rectify this issue. As of now, it's business as usual for the illegal street vendors. You have to appreciate their hustle, but there are various rules to follow, and they are not doing it, nor do they want to. A few months ago, the City's Task Force closed down an illegal food vendor on Milpas @ Montecito St., three hours later, they were up and running again with their open flame equipment, bottom line, they do not respect the city, businesses or its residents.

The brick and mortar, mom and pop restaurants are being affected tremendously. So are the vendors they buy from along with the city and county with their sales tax.

I asked a few business owners and residents to voice their opinion on this issue and email you. It was kind of odd, but almost all of them said: If the Board of Supervisors can give themselves a 50+ thousand dollar raise, they can find the money to fund a proper task force to rectify our problem in our neighborhoods. Our community deserves service.

That's it for now. I have plenty more to say, so please keep me informed about this illegal activity that has been lingering for years.

Sebastian Aldana Jr.
Santa Barbara Eastside Society - President.
805 304 3637