

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

**From:** Beatriz Molina <beebeemolina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** sbcob; Mary Robles; Santos Guzman  
**Subject:** Presentation to the Board of Director on the ITEM D-3: Illegal Food Vendors  
**Attachments:** Presentation to the board of supervisors illegal food vendors.docx

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I have attached our presentation for this week's meeting, I will be attending and intending to speak,

Thank you  
Bea Molina

**MILPAS EASTSIDE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
**PRESENTATION to The County Board of Supervisors**  
**(agenda Item D-3)**

March 3, 2024

**Introduction**

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Bea Molina, a representative of the Eastside Milpas Business Association, and today I want to address an important issue affecting our community: illegal food vendors in the Eastside. I want to shed light on a growing challenge in the Eastside of Santa Barbara, particularly on Milpas Street: the rise of illegal and unlicensed food vendors. This issue is significantly impacting the livelihoods of our licensed vendors and the local economy, and immediate action is required.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the challenges posed by unlicensed food vendors and propose solutions that benefit both vendors and the community.

**The Issue at Hand (as a example) this applies to the all the community in the County of Santa Barbara.**

On Milpas Street, a key hub for small businesses and vendors, has seen an influx of unlicensed food vendors. While these vendors may provide affordable and accessible options, they operate outside the legal framework, causing:

- **Economic Harm:** Licensed vendors are losing customers to unregulated competitors who bypass permits, taxes, and compliance costs.
- **Financial Struggles:** Many legitimate vendors are experiencing severe financial difficulties, with some on the brink of closure.
- **Community Impact:** As businesses suffer, the ripple effect on the community includes job losses and a weakened local economy

**Why This Matters**

The Eastside, and particularly Milpas Street, thrives on its vibrant business community. Allowing unlicensed vending to go unchecked threatens:

- **Economic Stability:** Businesses that contribute to the local tax base and provide jobs are being undermined. Economic harm to licensed vendors/businesses and brick-and-mortar establishments.
- **Public Safety:** Unregulated food can pose health risks, tarnishing the reputation of the area. Concerns from overcrowded sidewalks or unauthorized set ups
- **Fairness:** Licensed vendors follow the rules, yet they are being unfairly disadvantaged why required the licensed restaurant but not the unlicensed vendors

**Proposed Actions for the City/County of Santa Barbara to consider implementing**

1. **Increase Enforcement:**
  - Allocate resources to monitor and address unlicensed vending.
  - Partner with local law enforcement and health departments to ensure compliance.

2. **Streamline Licensing:**
  - Simplify the permit process to make it easier for vendors to become compliant.
  - Offer financial assistance or workshops for aspiring local vendors to navigate the system.
3. **Support Local Businesses:**
  - Launch initiatives to promote and attract customers to licensed vendors.
  - Create "Certified Safe Vendor" campaigns to distinguish compliant businesses.
4. **Community Dialogue:**
  - Host forums with local vendors, residents, and city officials to foster understanding and collaboration
  - City/County release several public announcements addressing the dangers of eating in these unlicensed food vendors.
  - This information should be on both the City and County websites for more impact
5. **What are the consequences legally for not abiding the rules/laws?** What is the County/city prepared to do and enforce? What are the fines?

### **Call to Action**

The time to act is now. Protecting licensed vendors in the County of Santa Barbara is essential for preserving the economic health and cultural identity of the county of the City of Santa Barbara. There is a critical need to prioritize this issue, enforce regulations, and support both existing businesses and those looking to operate legally. Together, we can build a thriving, equitable community

### **Closing**

Addressing illegal food vending is not just about enforcement—it's about creating opportunities and ensuring safety for everyone. By working together, we can support the community while maintaining health and economic interest.

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