

# Street Vending in NYC

Overview and Recommendations  
from the Street Vendor Advisory Board



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## Acronyms

CVM	Community Vending Marketplaces
DCWP	Department of Consumer and Worker Protection
DOHMH	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
DOT	Department of Transportation
GV	General Vendor
LL	Local Law
MFV	Mobile Food Vendor
NYPD	New York Police Department
NYCHA	New York City Housing Authority
OATH	Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
OSVE	Office of Street Vendor Enforcement
RCNY	Rules of the City of New York
SBS	Small Business Services

# Introduction

Street vending, while an important presence in New York City, is frequently subject to intense public debate, in part because of the complicated patchwork of State and City laws and rules that govern it.

In 2021, the New York City Council (Council) opened a new chapter in vending regulation by creating the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement (OSVE) and the Street Vendor Advisory Board (Board), tasking the Board with reviewing and evaluating all State and City laws and rules that regulate vending in New York City.<sup>1</sup>

The Board had a mandate to:

1. Determine whether any laws and rules were unclear or overly burdensome or duplicative and propose amendments.
2. Make recommendations on the creation of designated community spaces where street vendors can congregate to vend.
3. Make recommendations on appropriate locations for food trucks and commissary<sup>2</sup> space throughout the city.
4. Assess programs such as Open Streets, Open Restaurants, and Open Storefronts and their impact on the availability of legal places to vend.
5. Recommend whether new geographic and location restrictions should be considered to ensure equitable and efficient use of sidewalk and street space.

The law that created OSVE, Local Law 18 of 2021 (LL 18), also outlined a path to make available and increase supervisory licenses<sup>3</sup> for Mobile Food Vendors (MFV). The Board must make a recommendation to the Speaker of the Council about whether the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) authority to issue any, or all, of the licenses available under LL 18 should be expanded, restricted, or altered. The Board must make this recommendation annually from June 1, 2023 through June 1, 2030.<sup>4</sup>

This report provides an overview of the complex State and City laws and rules that govern the licensing of street vendors in New York City, and the time, geographic, and placement restrictions on vending. It also describes the Board, its workplan, and its recommended changes to the vending landscape.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of these laws date back to 1909 - New York State (NYS) General Business Law (GBL) 33.

<sup>2</sup> Commissaries are independent businesses where food, containers, or supplies are processed.

<sup>3</sup> "Supervisory license": On or after July 1, 2022, a food vendor license that authorizes the licensee to vend from a vehicle or pushcart for which a permit is issued. See LL 18 of 2021.

<sup>4</sup> LL 18 of 2021.

# Overview of Street Vending Regulations

Street vending in New York City is governed by a patchwork of State and City laws and rules. Adding to the confusion, vending regulations are not centrally located in the New York City Administrative Code (Administrative Code) and span sections of law governing sanitation, environment, health, transportation, and licensing, to name several. This framework creates a complex system of categories of vending licenses and permits:

- General Vendor (GV) license for non-veterans
- GV license for veterans
- specialized GV licenses
- MFV licenses
- mobile food vending permit (for a unit; for example, a cart or truck)
- special MFV permits
- supervisory licenses

There are also vendors of expressive matter who do not require a license because of rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This web of regulations also establishes the time, geographic, and placement restrictions on vending, and the various City agencies responsible for enforcement of these restrictions.

## General Vending and Mobile Food Vending Licenses

The Administrative Code and the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY) create two categories of street vending:

1. mobile food vending (selling food in a public place); and
2. general vending (selling non-food goods/services in a public place).

The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) issues GV licenses, including licenses for eligible veterans. Since 1979, City law has capped the number of GV licenses for non-veterans at 853.<sup>5</sup>

DOHMH issues both a MFV license and a mobile food vending permit:

- A **license** is issued to an individual who prepares or serves food from a permitted mobile food vending unit.
- A **permit** is issued to an individual or business and is intrinsically tied to a mobile food vending unit; for example, a cart or truck.

MFV licenses are not capped.

Mobile food vending permits do have caps that vary depending on the type of permit:

- Citywide permits: 2,900 plus an additional 100 for veterans
- Temporary seasonal permits: 1,000
- Fresh fruit and vegetable (Green Cart): 1,000
- Borough-specific:<sup>6</sup> 200

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<sup>5</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-459.

<sup>6</sup> Borough-specific mobile food vending permits allow vending in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, or Staten Island (50 permits per borough).

LL 18 will increase the number of supervisory licenses by 445 each year for the next 10 years beginning in July 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## Licenses for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces

New York State law creates the legal right for veterans of the armed forces, as well as their surviving spouses or surviving domestic partners, to obtain a GV license in New York City if they meet certain requirements. The City's cap on GV licenses does not apply to eligible veterans. Under State law, veterans, or their spouses or domestic partners, cannot transfer GV licenses to anyone.<sup>8</sup>

Additionally, State law requires New York City to issue "specialized vending licenses" to veterans who are physically disabled because of their service. Specialized vending licensees can vend on any block face regardless of local law restrictions, but they are subject to certain exceptions and prohibitions within State law.

Last, State law creates a specific specialized vending license for general vending within Midtown Manhattan. The number of Midtown specialized vending licensees is limited to 105, and only one specialized vending licensee can vend per block face within this area. Specialized vending licenses are issued to eligible veterans by DCWP.<sup>9</sup>

## First Amendment Vendors

Vendors who exclusively sell newspapers, periodicals, books, other similar written matter, or other goods protected by the First Amendment do not need a vending-related license. However, these vendors must follow applicable laws, including those that restrict the time and placement of GVs.<sup>10</sup>

## Time and Geographic Restrictions

The Administrative Code and RCNY restrict when and where general vending and mobile food vending can occur. The bulk of these street restrictions were created by the Street Vendor Review Panel (Review Panel), an interagency panel created by New York City law in 1995. The Review Panel is chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and includes the director of the Department of City Planning and the commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as one appointee of the Mayor nominated by the Speaker. The Administrative Code grants the Review Panel the exclusive authority to promulgate rules that create, repeal, or amend restricted streets.<sup>11</sup> The Review Panel has not amended restricted street rules since the early 2000s.<sup>12</sup>

At present, City law prohibits:

- all vending (non-food, food) in the area surrounding the World Trade Center;<sup>13</sup>
- general vending in Midtown Manhattan;<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Of these 445 new permits to be created each year, 100 will be Citywide, 300 will be Borough-specific, and 45 will be reserved for veterans.

<sup>8</sup> NYS GBL 32.

<sup>9</sup> NYS GBL 35-a.

<sup>10</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-453; 20-473.

<sup>11</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-465.1.

<sup>12</sup> See *The City Record* (Jan. 31, 2000), amendments to 6 RCNY 2-314, effective Mar. 1, 2000.

<sup>13</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-465(g); 17-315(k).

<sup>14</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-465(g).

- vending on streets in certain zoning districts, in an area surrounding downtown Flushing, Queens, and in an area surrounding Dyker Heights, Brooklyn at certain times of the year, unless the vendor is an eligible veteran with a specialized vending license.<sup>15</sup>

State law also contains general restrictions for specialized vending licensees, including prohibitions on vending on certain blocks and cross streets in Manhattan.<sup>16</sup>

## Placement and Size Restrictions

City laws and rules regulate where GVs and MFVs can be and how much space their display can take up on the streets and sidewalks. Some examples:

- Vending is only allowed on a sidewalk that has a 12-foot clear path for pedestrians.
- No vending is allowed within 20 feet of a building entrance or within 10 feet of any subway entrance or crosswalk.<sup>17</sup>
- Certain vending is not allowed on any ventilation grill, cellar door, or on the sidewalk abutting a no standing zone that is adjacent to a hospital.<sup>18</sup>
- There are limits on the size of vending tables, pushcarts, and vehicles.<sup>19</sup>

Additionally, MFVs are subject to various health, food safety, and sanitation requirements in the City Health Code and State Sanitary Code and enforced by DOHMH.<sup>20</sup>

Depending on the location, State law also contains placement restrictions for specialized vending licensees that differ from those that apply to non-specialized GVs and MFVs.<sup>21</sup>

As required by LL 18, the Board assessed how the Open Storefronts,<sup>22</sup> Open Restaurants,<sup>23</sup> and Open Streets<sup>24</sup> programs affected the availability of legal spaces to vend.

### ***Open Storefronts***

Intended to give businesses more flexibility to display goods outside of their storefronts during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Open Storefronts program will be in place for the pendency of the state of emergency.<sup>25</sup>

Program design has not created notable conflict with allowable vendor locations, or between program participants and street vendors.

### ***Open Restaurants***

Open Restaurants is a multiphase program to expand outdoor seating options for food establishments that is in the process of being made permanent under LL 114 of 2020.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-465; 17-315.

<sup>16</sup> NYS GBL 35-a.

<sup>17</sup> NYC Administrative Code 20-465; 17-315.

<sup>18</sup> Id.

<sup>19</sup> Id. and 24 RCNY Sec. 6-06.

<sup>20</sup> See New York City Health Code.

<sup>21</sup> NYS GBL 35-a.

<sup>22</sup> See [nyc.gov/openstorefronts](https://nyc.gov/openstorefronts)

<sup>23</sup> See [nyc.gov/openrestaurants](https://nyc.gov/openrestaurants)

<sup>24</sup> See [nyc.gov/openstreets](https://nyc.gov/openstreets)

<sup>25</sup> See [Emergency Executive Order 65](#) (March 29, 2022) at [nyc.gov](https://nyc.gov).

<sup>26</sup> See [council.nyc.gov](https://council.nyc.gov) and search [Legislation](#).

Program design has not created notable conflict with allowable vendor locations, or between program participants and street vendors.

### ***Open Streets***

The Open Streets program allows communities to embrace new public space and support small business; GVs and MFVs can operate provided they observe existing time, place, and manner restrictions.

Board members did not identify specific instances of notable conflict between the program and street vendors.

## Enforcement

In January 2021, the Council passed LL 18, which created OSVE. On March 18, 2021, former Mayor Bill de Blasio designated OSVE to be housed at DCWP.

Prior to passage of LL 18, the New York Police Department (NYPD), with assistance from DOHMH and the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), conducted enforcement of the City's vendor licensing and permitting requirements and geographic, time, and placement restrictions.

OSVE has replaced NYPD as the primary enforcement agency; however, the following agencies still conduct some of the enforcement they did prior to passage of LL 18:

- Parks Enforcement Patrol officers continue to lead enforcement in city parks.<sup>27</sup>
- DOHMH continues to perform food safety inspections.
- NYPD continues to handle counterfeiting and other criminal conduct.

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<sup>27</sup> See [nyc.gov/opendata](https://nyc.gov/opendata) for a list of [Parks Properties](#) and [Parks Properties Map](#).

# Street Vendor Advisory Board

Per LL 18, the Board consists of designees from five City agencies:

1. DCWP
2. DOHMH
3. DOT
4. NYPD
5. SBS

LL 18 empowered the Speaker of the Council and the Mayor to nominate to the Board 10 additional stakeholder members, six and four respectively, and stipulated what constituencies, and how many of each, must be represented.

The Speaker's six members comprise:

- 2 members to represent street vendors
- 1 member to represent workers in retail food stores
- 1 member to represent property owners
- 1 member to represent small businesses
- 1 member to represent community organizations

The Mayor's four members comprise:

- 2 members to represent street vendors
- 2 members to represent small business constituencies

Below is the list of Board members.

**Murad Awawdeh**, Executive Director,  
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)  
(community organization representative)

**Randy Peers**, President and CEO,  
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
(small business representative)

**Sonia Perez**, street vendor and member of  
the Street Vendor Project Leadership Board  
(street vendor representative)

**Matthew Shapiro**, Legal Director,  
Street Vendor Project  
(street vendor representative)

**Reggie Thomas**, Senior Vice President,  
Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)  
(property owner representative)

**Aly Y. Waddy**, Secretary-Treasurer,  
UFCW Local 1500  
(food retail worker representative)<sup>28</sup>

*Appointed by former Speaker Corey D. Johnson*

**Mohamed Attia**, Executive Director,  
Street Vendor Project  
(street vendor representative)

**Cheikh Boubacar Fall**, veteran street vendor  
(street vendor representative)

**David Estrada**, Executive Director,  
Sunset Park Business Improvement District  
(small business representative)

**Regina Myer**, President,  
Downtown Brooklyn Partnership  
(small business representative)

*Appointed by former Mayor Bill de Blasio*

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<sup>28</sup> Former Speaker Johnson appointed Aly Waddy as a member of the Board on October 19, 2021 to replace his original appointee Nikki Kateman, Political and Communications Director of RWDSU/UFCW.

# Workplan

The Board's designated agencies convened for the first time on April 28, 2021, meeting the deadline for the first meeting set by LL 18. However, due to operational delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, nominations by the Speaker and Mayor of the other Board members were not finalized until August 2021. Due to this unexpected delay, the Board extended its workplan to ensure sufficient time for deliberation, consistent with LL 18's mandate, meeting 21 times over six months.<sup>29</sup>

The Board invited a collaborative approach for members to identify and present proposals and engage in deliberative conversation with one another. Only proposals that achieved consensus among Board members were accepted as final recommendations to the Speaker and Mayor. To achieve consensus, Board members were in favor of a recommendation, had a neutral position, or had no objection.

From September 2021 to November 2021, Board members worked diligently to familiarize themselves with the array of State and City laws and rules around street vending and submitted proposals for discussion to the Board. Members presented on their respective proposals, and the Board began to identify issues where consensus could be achievable.

From December 2021 to February 2022, the Board focused on proposals where consensus was emerging, among them:

- repealing criminal liability in the Administrative Code for street vendors;
- exploring additional legal vending opportunities for street vendors; and
- reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulations for street vendors.

Meetings in February 2022 focused on larger thematic discussions of the vending landscape, including:

- amending license and permit caps;
- amending placement restrictions; and
- finding ways to meet the needs of street vendors who are veterans.

The final meetings of the Board in March 2022 revisited specific issues of interest identified by individual Board members, such as:

- piloting siting programs for street vendors;
- developing a uniform clear path restriction to replace restricted streets; and
- expanding the geographic reach of the Green Cart program.

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<sup>29</sup> Meetings were held on 9/13/21, 10/6/21, 10/12/21, 10/19/21, 10/22/21, 10/29/21, 12/14/21, 12/16/21, 1/12/22, 1/19/22, 1/26/22, 1/28/22, 2/2/22, 2/9/22, 2/16/22, 2/23/22, 3/16/22, and 3/23/22. Additionally, there were three meetings by a smaller committee tasked by the Board to discuss restricted streets and placement restrictions. Those meetings took place on 1/21/22, 1/28/22, and 2/4/22.

# Final Recommendations

After six months of work, Board members developed 16 final recommendations, ranging from specific amendments of local law to broad new conceptual approaches to street vending in New York City. Each recommendation is the product of a consensus-building process. For each of the 16 proposals, Board members were in favor of the final recommendation, had a neutral position, or had no objection. The final recommendations are arranged chronologically, in the order they were approved by the Board.

## #1: Increase SBS Business Support Programming

The Board recommends that additional resources be provided to SBS, with the purpose of developing and tailoring street vendor-specific programs that will assist vendors in accessing entrepreneurial opportunities and achieving compliance with relevant laws and rules.

## #2: Repeal Criminal Liability for General Vendors and Mobile Food Vendors

The Board recommends repealing the misdemeanor criminal penalties that exist in 20-472 and 17-325 of the Administrative Code.

## #3: Clarify Prohibition of Vending in Bicycle Lanes

The Board recommends adding language to the New York City Administrative Code specifically prohibiting vending, or vending-related activity, in bicycle lanes. Proposed legislative language reads:

**GV (Administrative Code 20-465):** “No vending vehicle, pushcart, stand, goods or any other item related to the operation of a vending business shall be placed on or within a bicycle lane. For purposes of this section, the term “bicycle lane” means a portion of the roadway that has been marked off or separated for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles.”

**MFV (Administrative Code 17-315):** “No food vending vehicle, pushcart, goods or any other item related to the operation of a food vending business shall be placed on or within a bicycle lane. For purposes of this section, the term “bicycle lane” means a portion of the roadway that has been marked off or separated for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles.”

## #4: Allow Vending Summonses to be Adjudicated by the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)

The Board recommends amending New York City Charter section 1049a(c) and Administrative Code sections 20-472(d) and 17-325(d) to allow vending summonses issued by OSVE to be adjudicated by OATH. These amendments must be made by the State Legislature.

Summonses for vending violations are currently heard at the Environmental Control Board, not OATH, where all other DCWP hearings are conducted.<sup>30</sup> By allowing summonses to be adjudicated at OATH, OSVE inspectors will be able to leverage existing systems to track notice of hearings seamlessly and more efficiently use their time in the field.

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<sup>30</sup> The Environmental Control Board is chaired by the commissioner of OATH and is composed of six ex-officio members that include the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Sanitation, Department of Buildings, DOHMH, NYPD, and the Fire Department, as well as six members appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent of the Council.

## #5: Repeal Bookkeeping Requirements

The Board recommends repealing bookkeeping requirements in the Administrative Code, specifically sections 17-313 and 20-463.

## #6: Simplify Requirements Regarding Display of Goods

The Board recommends simplifying the language regulating GV display of goods in section 20-465(n) of the Administrative Code for clarity. Specifically, the Board recommends repealing language that is unclear and replacing it with plain language.

Repeal:	Replace with:
“The display may not be less than twenty-four inches above the sidewalk where the display surface is parallel to the sidewalk and may not be less than twelve inches above the sidewalk where the display surface is vertical. Where a rack or other display structure is placed on top of or above a table or other base, the size of the base shall not be less than the size of the display structure placed thereon. Nothing shall be placed on the base so as to exceed the size limitations contained in this section.”	“No general vendor display may exceed five feet in height from ground level, except that a general vendor may use an umbrella that exceeds such height.”

## #7: Allow Mobile Food Vendors to Keep Goods on Top of Carts

The Board recommends amending section 17-315(c) of the Administrative Code to allow vendors to display or store goods on top of their carts. The Board’s suggested amendment reads (additions *italicized*, removals ~~struck through~~):

“All items relating to the operation of a food vending business shall be kept in, *on*, or under the vending vehicle or pushcart. ~~except that samples of the non-perishable items sold may be displayed on the vending vehicle or pushcart.~~ No items relating to the operation of a food vending business other than an adjoining acceptable waste container shall be placed upon any public space adjacent to the vending vehicle or pushcart, and no food shall be sold except from an authorized vehicle or pushcart.”

## #8: Create “Community Vending Marketplaces”

Currently, there are approximately 23,000 GV and MFV licensees in New York City.

The Board recommends that the Council explore legislation to establish Community Vending Marketplaces (CVM) in underserved neighborhoods to create legal entrepreneurial opportunities for street vendors and expand access to food and other goods for New Yorkers. CVMs serve as discrete areas or locations where vendors of all types are allowed to gather and operate.

When identifying CVMs, the Council should partner with local community stakeholders and consider:

- Modeling forerunner examples of CVMs, such as the street vendor gatherings at the Red Hook Ball Fields.

- Identifying specific and clearly delineated locations in underserved neighborhoods, such as food deserts, to host CVMs.<sup>31</sup>
- Allowing CVMs to be used by GVs and MFVs.
- Encouraging opportunities for CVM vendors to work together to increase purchasing power and access microcredit.

**#9: Create Additional Commissary Space for Vendors Through Municipally Owned Property or Through Public-Private Partnerships**

Commissaries are independent businesses where food, containers, or supplies are processed. As of January 2022, DOHMH permits 74 commissaries citywide.<sup>32</sup>

The Board recommends that the Council create additional commissary spaces for MFVs by encouraging public-private partnerships that can develop new commissary spaces or by tasking City agencies to identify municipally owned property that can be leveraged for new commissary spaces. Any newly identified commissary spaces must follow City laws and rules, including, but not limited to, DOHMH requirements for commissaries, which include the ability to:

- store mobile food vending units;
- clean and sanitize mobile food vending units;
- clean and sanitize equipment used by mobile food vending units;
- dispose of waste from mobile food vending units; and
- supply mobile food vending units.

Additionally, when identifying potential commissary spaces, the geographic needs of MFVs to be in proximity to their clients should be addressed. Localizing additional commissary spaces in the following neighborhoods would be extremely beneficial to MFVs:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • South Bronx        | • Astoria           |
| • Uptown Manhattan   | • Long Island City  |
| • Midtown Manhattan  | • Downtown Brooklyn |
| • Downtown Manhattan |                     |

**#10: Repeal the Street Vendor Review Panel**

Currently, the Street Vendor Review Panel is the only body able to create, repeal, or amend restricted streets through rulemaking (RCNY). The Review Panel has not met or altered restricted streets in any way since the early 2000s.

The Board recommends that the Council repeal and replace the Review Panel (Administrative Code 20-465.1). The Council should work with stakeholders to develop a new mechanism for identifying, creating, amending, or repealing restricted streets that will immediately replace the Review Panel. That mechanism should include localized input from brick-and-mortar businesses and street vendors and use objective standards based in health, safety, and the public’s well-being for identifying a restricted street.

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<sup>31</sup> The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food deserts for an urban area as low-income census tracts where a significant share (at least 33%) of the population is greater than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket.

<sup>32</sup> DOHMH data, shared 1/25/22.

### **#11: Align Restrictions Between General Vendors and Mobile Food Vendors**

The Board recommends that the Council explore legislation that ensures consistent and analogous placement and street restrictions exist for both GVs and MFVs, where practicable.

### **#12: Explore the Feasibility of Expanding Legal Vending Opportunities in Certain Municipal Parking Lots**

In New York City, municipal parking lots are managed by DOT. There are a total of 29 municipal parking lots.

The Board recommends that DOT assess the feasibility of developing entrepreneurial opportunities for vendors in municipal parking lots. DOT should receive input from local community stakeholders, including street vendors and brick-and-mortar businesses. They should explore which lots may be conducive to commercial activity and examine opportunities to use these spaces, considering times and days of low usage, operational and fiscal concerns, and lot geometry, while also prioritizing safety. DOT should identify best practices for using municipal parking lots.

### **#13: Explore the Feasibility of Expanding Legal Vending Opportunities in Certain Pedestrian Plazas**

In New York City, there are 82 pedestrian plazas, 67 of which are open to the public; of those, 35 have local Business Improvement Districts or other community-based organizations as partners. Additionally, several pedestrian plazas are maintained by Parks.

The Board recommends that DOT assess the feasibility of developing additional commercial activity, including additional entrepreneurial opportunities for vendors, in DOT public plazas without existing partners. The goal would be to identify issues and opportunities relating to different types of commercial activity and make recommendations on policies and best practices for commercial activity, public space access, and management going forward.

### **#14: Explore the Feasibility of Expanding Legal Opportunities for Mobile Food Vendors to Operate in Metered Parking Spots**

Under Administrative Code 17-315(f), MFVs are required to abide by all traffic and parking laws, and all street vendors are prevented by Section 4-08(h)(7) of Chapter 4 of Title 34 of RCNY from operating in metered parking. However, MFVs operating in food trucks have difficulty finding non-metered parking near high foot traffic areas.

The Board recommends that DOT assess the feasibility of expanding legal opportunities for MFVs to operate in metered parking spots. DOT should incorporate localized feedback from stakeholders, such as street vendors, brick-and-mortar businesses, and constituents. DOT should also assess methods to designate and assign metered parking for mobile food vending activity, such as premium fees to be charged to MFVs and/or concession agreements. If feasible, DOT should identify potential pilot locations that would benefit from having metered parking designated for use by MFVs.

## **#15: Street Vendor Siting Pilots**

In an effort to design a street vending framework that de-escalates potential points of conflict between street vendors, storefront businesses, and place management organizations, the Board recommends the City pursue partnerships with local economic development organizations and local street vendors to collaborate on conducting five or more vendor siting pilots in different neighborhood commercial districts. These should test and evaluate:

- different vendor siting practices;
- placement guidelines;
- technology;
- tools for easily and accurately identifying legal street vending sites;
- innovative mechanisms for designating some portion of local vendor fees and/or revenues in order to pay for shared street vendor needs, services, and maintenance; and
- any other potential ideas meriting testing and evaluation.

Any designation of street vendor fees or revenues should only be considered once street vendors have been allowed to obtain all necessary licenses and permits for lawful street vending operation, and any new siting practices shall not result in the displacement of any currently operating street vendors.

## **#16: Green Cart Program Enhancements**

The Board recommends enhancing the Green Cart program by incentivizing fruit and vegetable vendors to operate on or adjacent to select New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties to increase healthy food access. Additionally, the Board recommends working with NYCHA to explore allowing their residents to vend food that meets the needs of the tenant population. This expansion should also build on previous City efforts to train street vendors on how to use Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) terminals and identify the resources needed to scale the program.

## Conclusion

The Board was brought together to review and evaluate the current street vending ecosystem in New York City, and to find common ground among stakeholders with differing backgrounds and points of view.

There was widespread agreement that New York City's street vendors represent an integral part of the city's streetscape and, as some of the city's smallest small businesses, provide a valuable service for their customers. Their work is a vital pathway to financial stability for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Advocates of brick-and-mortar businesses also had consistent, compelling concerns about the interests of their constituency and how those interplay with street vendors.

Ultimately, through a collaborative and consensus-building process, the Board was able to identify 16 achievable recommendations to continue the reforms to street vending that LL 18 began. While the Board does not expect this report to be the final word on street vending, this report will contribute to moving our city in a direction that enriches the streetscape, provides affordable food and goods to customers who need them, and opens vital economic opportunities to thousands of New Yorkers.

