



Press Advisory

6/18/22

DC STREET VENDORS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE INCREASING UNDER SALAH CZAPARY, ENDORSE COUNCILMEMBER NADEAU IN THE WARD 1 PRIMARY,

**Contacts: Soledad Miranda (Spanish) (202) 262-5145 and Megan Macaraeg (English) (618) 722-8880
VU**

Washington, DC – **Today, Vendors United, representing street vendors throughout Northwest DC, issued a public statement in support of Ward 1 Councilmember, Brianne Nadeau.** “Today, we endorsed our Councilmember Brianne Nadeau. She has a strong record of standing up for us. We are immigrants, we are parents, we are Ward 1 residents, we are your friendly neighborhood street vendors, and we are proud to support a person who has supported us for so long, Brianne Nadeau.” The full statement, in English and Spanish, can be found [here](#).

The group also had choice words for Salah Czapary, another candidate in the race, and also a police officer. “We want to say again, we are not stupid. We believe in actions, not just a smiling face and words.” Vendors United’s skepticism of MPD is well earned. The group recently found one of their members, a mother and her children, suffered a brutal encounter with the police hauntingly similar to the ordeal of the Lemus family in 2019, where a [15-year-old girl was pushed to the ground by the police](#) and sustained injuries that sent her to the ER. Says Magnolia A., “the police also threatened to take my children away from me because they said I was ‘neglecting’ them. But we were all together, running our family business. I had an anxiety attack, EMS came, and everything got suddenly very very bad. After that, I couldn’t eat for days. I would freeze. My children would literally shake with fear to see the police coming.” Vendors have also vowed that despite DC Chairman [Phil Mendelson’s recent opposition to decriminalize street vending at a Public Forum for At-large candidates](#) (13:55 minute mark), they will continue to push their cause forward.

Meanwhile, vendor families who are able to vote are showing their support for Nadeau by bringing their children to vote early this Saturday.

On Monday morning, 6/20/2022, vendor moms from the group also plan to speak out publicly on the ongoing patterns of police violence, a history of threats of family separation, and the danger of police running for office. Speakers from Vendors United will include [Soledad Miranda](#) (mom who filmed police harming a 15 year old), [Ana Lemus](#) (mom who was threatened with losing her children by police), Magnolia Alvarez (second mom who was threatened with losing her children by police) and [Angela Salazar](#) (citizen mom who is exercising her vote for herself and other moms).

###

Photo Ops, Vendor families early voting on Saturday, Speakout with Vendor moms available for comment on Monday, 6/20/22