

WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS: A MULTI-PHASE APPROACH TO REFORMING DC'S STREET VENDOR LICENSING REGIME

5 DIFFERENT DC AGENCIES HAVE REGULATORY JURISDICTION OVER VENDORS

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health, Metropolitan Police Department, and Department of Transportation combined have over 80 pages of regulations vendors are required to know and follow.

DC CRIMINALIZATION OF STREET VENDING

Metropolitan Police Dept. is the primary enforcer of vending laws created by DCRA. The focus is on enforcement and not public health, it is to maintain the status quo, further marginalizing diverse communities.

HIGH COSTS OF STREET VENDING

Vendors want to comply with the laws; however, they do not have the means to comply. A Class A license costs \$476 for a two-year term. Sidewalk Vending Site Permit costs \$600 for a year term. More fees apply depending on where the vendor wants to vend.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Since 2010, MPD has issued over 1000 post-and-forfeits and over 450 cases were brought before a D.C. Superior Court Judge for vending without a license. The average post-and-forefit is \$250. Having a previous criminal penalty permanently bars vendors from receiving a vending licenses

LIMITED ACCESS TO VENDING

Research shows that less than 400 street vending licenses were granted each year since 2010. By August 2019, the DCRA only granted seventeen street vending licenses, the lowest quantity since 2013 where the DCRA 322 granted licenses.

OVER POLICING

Even though enforcement numbers may be decreasing, harassment from the MPD is intensifying.

SOLUTION

Decriminalize Street Vending, expunge previous illegal vending records, and use an education based approach to fix-not-fine street vending.