



**Board Report**

**File #:** 2019-0241, **File Type:** Informational Report

**Agenda Number:** 18.

**OPERATIONS, SAFETY AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE  
MAY 16, 2019**

**SUBJECT: WESTLAKE/ MACARTHUR PARK COMMUNITY MARKET VENDING PROGRAM**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE status report on the Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vending Project.

**ISSUE**

In March 2017 Metro launched a Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vendor Pilot Program which was made permanent in 2019. This report is an update of that program.

**BACKGROUND**

In an effort to manage longstanding street vending at Metro’s Westlake/ MacArthur Park Station, Metro partnered with L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, L.A. City Council Member Gil Cedillo, Central City Neighborhood Partners and Union de Vendedores Ambulantes (Union Of Street Vendors) to launch a one-year permitted vending pilot project at the Westlake/ MacArthur Park Station adjacent to the Red and Purple Lines. Metro’s issued permit has allowed the station’s plaza to address historical challenges to unpermitted vending at that location. The goals of the program are to minimize blight and disorder, ensure safe boarding and alighting, and to ultimately transform the station plaza into an inviting environment. The Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vending program demonstrates Metro’s strong commitment to partnering with the community to creatively solve challenges. In light of the program overall success the program has been made permanent is 2019.

**DISCUSSION**

Operating Structure

The County and City of Los Angeles pooled financial resources to fund the Westlake/ Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vendor Pilot Program to cover the costs of various permits, maintenance and security. The program is administered by the Central City Neighborhood Partners, a community nonprofit street vendor membership organization that keeps records of vendor applications and coordinate member contributions as well as operating costs. Operating hours are

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from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. There are total of 24 booths and a total of 68 spaces for vendors where approved goods are sold. All participants must demonstrate that they reside in the local community (LA City Council District -CD1) or demonstrate at least a year of selling in that area. The program is self-funded by partners as are the permit fees and cost of fixed post security.

#### Success and Lesson Learned Resulting in Partnership Improvements

Under Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vendor Pilot Program the objectives of the program were met-blight and disorder were reduced, the vendors no longer impeded space that otherwise was to be used for safe boarding and greater order at the station was achieved that ultimately has made the station into an inviting environment to the benefit of Metro and the community at large. To maintain safety of the area while honoring the community market partnership, Metro and CD1 together funded a LAPD fixed post officer in 2018 and 2019 resulting in the reduction of crime at that station since the launch of the project - 14% reduction in aggravated assaults and 61% reduction of robberies (**Attachment A**). To avoid community and vending location confusion, demarcation lines were drawn at the station to distinguish jurisdictions as Metro and LA City have different vending policies at that site.

#### SB 946

In September of 2018 former Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 946, the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act (Sen. Ricardo Laura) which required that cities and counties throughout the state create permit programs and establish health and safety policies for vending. Since the enacting of that legislation, L.A. City developed General Rules and Regulations for sidewalk vending through the Bureau of Street Services (ordinance for Council File No. 13-1493-S5) (**Attachment B**). Even in light of the changing law, Metro's Westlake/ MacArthur Park station maintains itself as attractive vending property. Vendors remain attracted to this historic vending site from all over the world and Metro's program allows for vending practices that are not allowed under the City ordinance (ex. vending kiosk at and around public transportation) which is a clear attractive benefit. LA County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs has designated Metro's Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market Vendor Pilot Program project as a standard of best practices and Metro is working with the County to aid in the development of the County's vending policies (**Attachment C**).

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The vending program operates generally free to Metro. Metro and LA City equally share the cost of the one LAPD officer who is fixed post.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The program described supports Goal #2 and #4 of Metro's Strategic Goals. Goal #2, Deliver outstanding trip experiences for all users of the transportation system; and Goal #4, Transform Los Angeles County through regional collaboration and national leadership

#### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The alternative would be to cancel the vending program which would have a negative impact onto the vending population at that site.

**NEXT STEPS**

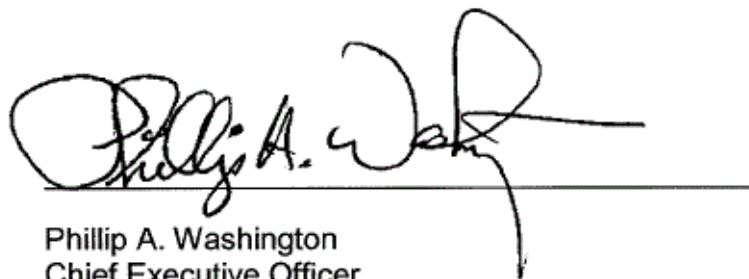
Continue to manage the vending project at that location site. Identify if other locations at Metro would be suitable to run similar host programs.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A - Crime Reduction
- Attachment B - LA City Vending Rules
- Attachment C - Board of Supervisors Motion

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