Geographies of Economic Violence:

Mapping Street Vendor Citations in San Bernardino County

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Introduction

Through the CASA program, I have been working with the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (IC4IJ) as a Research Fellow, specifically on their street vendor advocacy efforts. I have been doing legal research into SB 946 and 972 and their implementation at the local ordinance level, organizing and mapping vendors’ individual citation records, and also assisting with interviews with street vendors around the IE. Most street vendors are immigrants, many are undocumented, and low-income—they also face hateful narratives of criminalization and threat, and this project aims to shine light on and challenge the legal and economic violence vendors face.

I have worked to gain a better understanding of SB 946 and 972, laws designed to legalize street vending and support vendors, and then examining how city ordinances and county public health guidelines may or may not be in line with these bills. Supplementing this work, I have also supported qualitative, interview-focused one on one check ins with vendors, whose narratives and stories have informed and are integrated throughout this research project. My primary focus has been creating an organizational system for citation documents that vendors give IC4IJ, so they can be better viewed cohesively and analyzed. I have been assisting with spreadsheet organization and digitization of these documents, as well as creating a map of these citation incidents. In the future, the map will exist in two versions—one as an internal tool to aid organizers in understanding the citation and enforcement landscape in the area, and a public-facing version that will help provide people not as familiar with street vending and unjust citation practices a broader idea of the geographic details and scale of these citations. For the scope of this project, I have focused on creating the internal, dynamic mapping tool.
Positionality

As a researcher, I am coming to this work with a commitment to become proximate to and work in solidarity with the community surrounding Pitzer College and Claremont, where I have moved to attend this private, liberal arts college. Receiving such an education is a tremendous privilege that affords me great capital, but it also means that I am benefitting from the many forms of oppression that higher education and the Claremont Colleges are inculcated in. In my view, engaging with my local community and standing in solidarity by working for social change along with the community is my obligation as a Pitzer student. This college has also given me skills that I bring to my work this semester, including training in psychological research, academic and professional writing, and most importantly a deep interest and commitment to social justice.

Learning about the Inland Empire, and California more broadly, through the CASA program has prompted me to consider my ‘place’ in the more literal sense: as a born-and-raised Rhode Islander, why do I find myself in Southern California pushing for justice? I’m moving away from my parents and friends, drastically increasing my carbon footprint by flying across the country multiple times a year, and attending an institution that has played a role in gentrifying the Arbol Verde neighborhood (Garcia, 2017). I view fighting for social justice by building relationships and working in solidarity with my surrounding community as the ‘price’ I am happy to pay for getting to occupy space at Pitzer College. While I feel a connection to the community I grew up in, I also hope to build my own relationships in California, and have begun to do so in my fellowship with IC4IJ. I strive to invest time and labor now to foster relationships that will last for many years to come in my justice- and community-oriented career.
Beyond the personal aspects of my identity, one change area I am particularly passionate about is the legal system, and I want to elaborate on the perspective I bring to the legal aspect of this research. I believe this system holds a mind-blowing amount of power when it comes to determining much of the course of people’s lives. Particularly when it comes to criminal justice and the prison system, I align with abolitionist philosophies and visions for a world built on a foundation of community— without prisons. Accordingly, I feel a pull to figure out the puzzles and find all of the loopholes that are hidden in the law, and I want to do so and use them to prevent an unjust application of the law that continues to serve the oppressive status quo. This needs to happen on a case by case basis, but also at a larger policy level. I witnessed how that work can happen in solidarity with community-based organizations when I worked with a legal services organization in my home state, which was instrumental in my decision to pursue a career in law. I hope to delve more into community-based lawyering moving forward, and build relationships with local organizers within California for years to come.

With regard to street vending specifically, a large part of the foundation of this research is the cultural significance of street vendors and the food, music, and community they foster. A positionality section would be incomplete without acknowledging that I (unfortunately) did not grow up in an area where street vendors were commonplace. This has given me the opportunity to explore the wealth of different cuisines and dishes that are characteristically served by street vendors— one of the best days of my fellowship this semester, and a memory I will carry long beyond this semester, was when vendors that IC4IJ works with came to Pitzer’s storyteller’s festival, and I had the most delicious aguachile, fried quesadillas, and horchata. However, I come not completely disconnected from the culture of street food, as many of my favorite South Asian
dishes that I grew up eating are traditionally served as street food, and I arrive at this work with an understanding and appreciation of the value that street food holds.

**Academic Positionality**

I also want to address the perspective that I bring to this work in a more academic sense by discussing courses and theorists I have learned from and inform my approach to this project. Having taken many courses focused on social issues, oppression and liberation, and restorative and transformative justice, I have developed a theoretical lens informed by feminist theory, critical race theory, and abolition. I have learned a great deal from scholars and transformative justice practitioners such as bell hooks, adrienne marie brown, Mariame Kaba, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha. Critical Resistance, a grassroots abolitionist organization, outlines abolition broadly as a “political vision with the goal of eliminating imprisonment, policing, and surveillance and creating lasting alternatives to punishment and imprisonment” (“What Is the PIC?,” n.d.). This is an embodied strategy and way of life that not only calls for the dismantling of oppressive systems but also a hopeful envisioning of community-focused alternatives, which is where practices of community care, accountability, and transformative justice come in. I am arriving at this project with an appreciation for the necessity of community-rooted practices of harm and conflict resolution in line with restorative and/or transformative justice, all the way from an individual to a collective level— such a perspective has undoubtedly influenced by interaction and judgment of citation and enforcement practices in San Bernardino.
Setting

As stated on IC4IJ’s website, they are a coalition of over 35 different faith-based, legal services, and worker’s rights organizations within the Inland Empire, with a focus on serving immigrants in a variety of areas on an individual, community, and policy level. Now 15 years old, the coalition was formed following the call of Roman Catholic Bishop Rutillo del Riego to organize for immigrant justice. Their work most recently has involved working against the unjust immigration system and advocating for its reform, as well as pushing for the closure of Adelanto Detention Facility, the largest ICE detention center within the United States which has a massive environmental health impact on the community it surrounds.

IC4IJ is an incredibly important community organization in the Inland Empire, as one out of every five residents in the area is an immigrant (UCR Center for Social Innovation et al., 2018). According to a report from the UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation, the California Immigrant Policy center, and IC4IJ, as of 2016, the immigrant population of the IE stood at 972,426 people. This is made up of mostly Latino (69%) as well as Asian (19 %) immigrants, and almost equally split between naturalized citizens and non-US citizens (UCR Center for Social Innovation et al., 2018). This suburban expansion of Los Angeles is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the US and has been expanding since the 1980s (De Lara, 2018). The Latinx population specifically has grown tremendously, and currently they represent a higher proportion of immigrants in the IE than compared to the rest of Southern California (UCR Center for Social Innovation et al., 2018). Many street vendors in the area are low-income Latine entrepreneurs for whom vending is a vital source of economic opportunity because of its relatively low start-up costs. In Los Angeles, “an estimated 50,000 street vendors… generate $504 million in revenue a year”, with particularly food vendors “generating $1.60 in local
economic activity for every $1 in revenue, compared with $1.04 in economic activity for every $1 in street vendor revenue overall.” (Economic Roundtable as cited in Abello, 2022). Thus, the policing and citation practices that many vendors face are not only harmful to the individuals themselves but also affect the economic landscape of immigrants and the IE more broadly. Also, a note on terminology here: IC4IJ primarily works with food vendors, but I will use ‘street vendors’ to refer to them throughout this paper to stay consistent with popular language within the community.

A key project for IC4IJ has been advocating for laws decriminalizing and protecting street vendors, as they have faced a disproportionate amount of criminal penalties including misdemeanors and felonies for operating their businesses. They have already made great strides in achieving this goal, with the passage of SB 946 in 2018 and SB 972 in 2022. SB 946, also known as the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act, decriminalized street vending across California by making penalties for street vending only administrative fines instead of criminal ones. This means the only cost after getting a citation can be a financial one, as opposed to vendors accumulating criminal fines (misdemeanors) that could turn into felonies and even arrest warrants if not paid. Importantly in the context of local cities drafting ordinances to regulate street vending, SB 946 sets a maximum cost for administrative citations (that can increase based on repeated violations), but does not set a minimum— that is up to the local governments, meaning it could be $0. However, SB 946 doesn’t mandate this, nor does it provide a pathway to obtaining permits or offer public health guidelines specifically for vending operations. SB 972 begins to address this, by creating a permit exemption for street vendors that sell whole fruit or other pre-packaged goods like chips or water bottles. It also establishes the category of “Compact mobile food operation”, [which] means a mobile food facility that operates from an
individual or from a pushcart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack, or other nonmotorized conveyance.” (SB 972, 2023). San Bernardino EHS has operationalized this by creating categories within this label of low, medium, and high risk, that each cover different categories of food that is being prepared and/or sold with correspondingly different permit requirements and costs (Field Notes, 2/28/2023).

These are promising steps forward, but most street vendors that IC4IJ works with don’t sell food that would fall under a category for which SB 972 has a process for mobile food vending; instead they cook food that involves the preparation of raw meat and “potentially hazardous” foods (Public Counsel, n.d.). For these vendors, there are still structural requirements that include regulations surrounding handwashing sinks and preparing food off-site to simply reheat it on the street that do not reflect how most vendors operate. Furthermore, currently the only legal setup in San Bernardino for such vendors would be on a food truck— not how they currently operate. This brings us to IC4IJ’s current work; there are legal pathways that need to be created for most street vendors, and without these pathways vendors remain vulnerable to citations. These citations are fines given for violations of some area of the law, including but not limited to public health guidelines, noise ordinances, and parking regulations. Even those citations not directly related to street vending, permits still have the effect of targeting vendors for working, and are thus having a disproportionate effect on immigrants of the IE both individually and at the larger economic level. This context of immigrant and vendor criminalization in the IE is an important perspective that must be recognized before delving into my specific project.
Literature Review

Before getting into new research conducted this semester, I will provide a synthesis of previous work surrounding street vending, and build on previous scholars’ work to situate my own research project about vending in the Inland Empire (IE). I want to note that much of the literature is focused on cities outside of the IE, which only indicates all the more reason that my research focused on San Bernardino is so necessary. While the nuances and local politics of each city are no doubt wildly different, there are also useful thematic and theoretical analyses throughout the literature, which is what this review will primarily focus on.

Cultural Significance of Street Vending

In street vendor advocacy efforts, much of the support for vendors focuses on viewing vending as a cultural practice that holds great significance. This argument is certainly true—the authors of UCLA Community Economic Development Clinic and Public Counsel report titled *Unfinished Business* highlight this, saying one of vendors’ key roles is “providing culturally significant food and goods not available in brick-and-mortar restaurants and retail stores.” (Bennett et al., 2021, p. 4). Even in the face of legislative and community hostility, the resilience of street vendors and the benefits they give to their surrounding community must be acknowledged. In sharing their research, Estrada describes this sense of belonging that vendors are vital in fostering, describing vendors’ “corn on a stick, churros, hot dogs, and raspados” that they write “added a layer of authenticity to a place where being Mexican or Latinx was safe and even celebrated.” (2019, p. 51) This description gives a snapshot of the cultural sites of community that can be formed when vendors come together, often invoking nostalgia of past memories, conditions, and ways of life, perhaps from across borders, to create a sense of authenticity and culture on the part of both vendor and consumer (Muñoz, 2015). An important
distinction here is that Muñoz suggests that vendors are bringing such cultural practices directly from their home countries as a tried-and-true way of supporting themselves. Estrada, however, found in Los Angeles specifically that vending is “by and large not a cultural transplant from México or Central America [... but rather] informed by cultural legacies from México, shaped by structural forces and constraints, and innovated by creative, working-class Mexican immigrants” (2019, p. 48) Regardless of where vendors’ traditions and skills came from, the goods that they are selling are indisputably an asset to their surrounding communities. Bennett et al. give the example that in “historically disinvested neighborhoods”, many of which are likely food deserts, vendors selling produce may be the only source of fresh and healthy food in the area (2021, p. 12). Whether it’s providing access to fresh, nutrient-filled fruit in a food-desert-adjacent area or providing carbs to absorb the alcohol from a night out, vendors provide social, cultural, and culinary benefits to their surrounding communities.

The Underlying Political Nature of Street Vending

All of the points discussed above highlight the assets that street vendors can bring to their communities, an important focus when facing the many individuals, organizations, and policies that are actively working against street vendors. This is also a defining factor of Community Based Participatory Action research (CBPAR), an asset-based research model which this paper aims to follow, as discussed previously in methodology (Stoecker, 2013). However, as Estrada points out with their characterization of street vending as a “cultural economic innovation born out of need and ingenuity,” there is a larger political and economic context that must be investigated to fully understand the political landscape in which street vendors must work (2019, p. 63). Koch writes that “our notion of what counts as properly political must extend into arenas often thought to be too mundane to warrant our attention,” and in this next section I aim to do
just that, by problematizing the economic and spatial aspects of street vending that might otherwise be seen as normal and neutral (2015, p. 1247).

**Place over Space**

One of the critical pieces of street vending not often thought of as political, or a mechanism of power, is the street itself, when examined through the framework of spatial politics. Devlin (2015), who writes about street vendors in New York City, touches on this through the lens of neo-Marxist scholar Henri Lefèbvre. They explain that Lefèbvre saw space in a city as an instance of conflict between commercial interests and the general public, in that the former aims to use city space to produce profit and revenue, whereas the latter derive value from experiencing and existing in the space—this is known as “use value” (Lefèbvre, as cited in Devlin, 2015). A major debate in the literature surrounding street vendors is exactly where they are located in this conflict over space between the capitalist position of controlling space for financial and economic gain, or the public utilizing space in a non-monetary orientation. Devlin (2015) presents the view that as vendors are still technically businesses aiming to use space to create a profit, and sometimes justify their perceived right to the space by framing themselves as more worthy than others of using the space (including the unhoused, unemployed, or social services recipients), their entrepreneurial characteristics complicate the narrative of vendors as standing in resistance/opposition to the larger neoliberal system. Muñoz’s (2015) conceptualizations of space and place help to clarify why vendors’ operations can still be viewed as an act of resilience and resistance in the face of laws designed to uphold oppressive systems and work against vendors.

Muñoz writes that “space as a concept is socially constructed” (emphasis added) and that “vendors transform the intended meanings and use of space (i.e., those intended by the State)
through “place”-making mechanisms such as imposing alternative meanings and uses on public space” (2015, p. 111, 103). They go on to explain that place is where the social and cultural experiences that characterize one’s life happen. It is the site that people form connections and attachment to, and where they create formative memories— which also links back to Muñoz’s previously discussed concept of nostalgia. The key difference here is that place provides social and cultural resources to its occupants, whereas space provides monetary resources to corporate interests. By utilizing space that is not otherwise intended to be a place, vendors are situated at a critical point in characterizing public spaces in ways that the entire community benefits from—which I would call Lefèbvre’s use value. Scholar Ruth Wilson Gilmore also discusses this concept, and how it relates to abolition, in her collection of essays on abolition geography:

“Place-making is normal human activity: we figure out how to combine people, and land, and other resources with our social capacity to organize ourselves in a variety of ways… Abolitionist critique concerns itself with the greatest and least detail of these arrangements of people and resources and land over time. It shows how relationships of un-freedom consolidate and stretch, but not for the purpose of documenting misery. Rather, the point is not only to identify central contradictions— inherent vices— in regimes of dispossession, but also, urgently, to show how radical consciousness in action resolves into liberated life-ways, however provisional, present and past.” (2022, p. 351-2).

Gilmore’s theory, while not specifically focused on street vending, is directly applicable to the current project, as it highlights the asset-based commonality between abolitionist analysis and community-based research, as well as justifies the political focus on space and place. In the context of Gilmore’s analysis, street vending can be seen as a form of this ‘radical consciousness’ through its ability to unite and uplift community voices.

Graaff and Ha (2015) also highlight how vendors’ mere existence and resilience in the street are political acts in and of themselves. A key part of this is vendors speaking out against the laws, agencies, and corporations that seek to shut them down: “by using urban space to
survive and better their living conditions, vendors demonstrate how the city, in particular the street, is a ‘concrete space for politics’ where the ‘formation of new claims by informal political actors materializes and assumes concrete forms’” (p. 7). I see Devlin’s point that by operating a business, vendors still gain exchange value from space, not only use value. However, in the neoliberal economic reality that we exist in, simply viewing space as use value will not provide the material and economic security necessary to survive—the fact that vendors are able to create use value in addition to economic value in their communities positions them as political actors against oppressive state, corporate, and legal forces. Specifically within the IE, spatial co-optation in favor of capitalist interests is incredibly relevant given the growing footprint of warehouses—which currently occupy 37 contiguous square miles of land (Phillips, 2022).

Vendors are able to find and create place that holds cultural value within the unique IE landscape despite this expansion. This makes their work all the more valuable for community resilience and support, finding meaning in both use value and cultural value.

**Power in Permitting and Licensing**

Another powerful aspect of street vending that is stealthily political is the permitting and licensing process. Koch (2016) discusses this extensively, and writes that “licensing folds into the production of some very distinct and often quite durable geographies of public life: some marked by inclusiveness and shared opportunity, others by inequality and conflict.” (p. 1232). Particularly in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire, Bennett et al. outline 5 major barriers related to permitting that function as obstacles for vendors to even enter the informal economy of street vending: “(1) program accessibility; (2) permitting procedures; (3) equipment requirements; (4) food preparation and equipment storage; and (5) enforcement” (2021, p. 18). Koch (2016) points out that licensing serves as a form of surveillance on an earlier timeline, and increasingly
represents private, privileged, property-focused interests as opposed to the people for whom they are designed to serve (vendors and customers), blocking entrepreneurial opportunities. They also highlight that “the severity of penalties makes vendors particularly susceptible to unfair treatment—especially those with limited English or little working knowledge of the law. Business owners, property managers and competing vendors can often intimidate vendors into moving on by pointing out a violation (real or not) and threatening to call the police” (Koch, 2016, p. 1240). This is particularly true in the Inland Empire, and this major obstacle is a focus in local advocacy efforts, which will be discussed later on. However, the fact that the ‘tool’ of the license/permit holds so much power also presents an opportunity to make significant positive progress through reform, as changes to that process will have incredibly large effects for the entire industry of street vending.

Koch’s argument is not without flaws—there were some points made that I disagreed with, including a mistaken sense that vendors at mobile carts pose health risks and generate public disorder, a seemingly racist comment that illnesses are not reported because vendors don’t have “easily recalled” names (2016, p. 1235), and support for vendors with licenses to practice reporting unlicensed vendors to authorities. Street vendors have not been shown to be more dangerous than eating at a brick and mortar restaurant —thus, the enforcement of retail food codes have not actually decreased foodborne illness risk—and vendors have actually been associated with less anti-social behavior and violence in their surrounding area (Bennett et al., 2021, Liu, 2015). Furthermore, a study in 2014 actually found that in six out of seven cities (including Los Angeles), food trucks and carts had (statistically) significantly fewer sanitation violations compared to restaurants (Erickson, 2014). While Koch admirably problematizes and investigates the political nature of the license, they ultimately endorse government surveillance
of the street vending space indirectly through licensing. I am coming to this research project with an abolitionist lens (towards prisons and policing), so these last two points regarding an alleged threat posed by vendors and within-group surveillance I am particularly opposed to.

Muñoz (2015) actually provides an alternative perspective (similar to what I have anecdotally heard from vendors in San Bernardino as well), that vendors thrive and are able to establish their “cultural citizenship” (essentially constructing their own sense of place and belonging) when they are self-organizing and regulating (p. 110). This is also reflected in Bennett et al.’s recommendations for moving forward in supporting vendors, when they say it is important to give “vendors an opportunity to self-organize and work with area residents and businesses to develop specialized regulations that ensure safety and economic inclusion.” (2021, p. 8). As someone who identifies as an abolitionist, I am much more inclined to support and develop these community-based models of ensuring public safety. Nonetheless, many of Koch’s points, along with other scholars, provide key context for understanding the inherent political nature of street vending. Moving forward, a similar critical lens will now be applied to the economics of vending.

The Economic Aspects of Street Vending

Street vendors are part of what is known as the informal economy, which consists of work that generates revenue but isn’t officially (or formally) counted as part of their community’s economic activity (Five Things to Know about the Informal Economy, 2021). This is not a coincidence, and it’s not the case that vendors just happen to be drawn to work in the informal economy. By acknowledging race and class relations under the current neoliberal economy, we can see that there are underlying factors at play. Muñoz (2015) mentions that the Los Angeles economic landscape is similar to the national one, where there’s a division of highly
skilled and paid labor that is drastically different from lower wage workers in a manual labor or service industry. The fact that immigrant workers are pushed into the informal economy as a means of survival is indicative of larger structural inequality between socioeconomic classes, compounded in this case with exclusive and violent immigration policy. Estrada also takes this view, claiming that in addition to being a cultural tradition, street vending is also a response “to structural economic exclusions of people disadvantaged by class, race, and immigration status.” (2019, p. 55). The state—in this case the United States government, all the way from the national policies to the city agencies—plays a deliberate role in deciding what qualifies as formal as opposed to informal, as well as “which kind of informality will be tolerated and which will not” through “carceral and immigration regimes” (Hidalgo, 2022, p. 200). Because of this, vendors are left caught in a “highly racialized and gendered economic practice that is heavily policed by law enforcement” (Hidalgo, 2022, p. 199) that stifles any notion of vendor growth.

Liu et al. lay out a very clear picture of the different ways that vendors interact with the larger economy in their businesses:

1. Vendors buy goods needed to have a saleable product, for example, the ingredients to make food (direct impact). This stimulates additional economic activity in the upstream supplier chain (indirect impact), followed by additional economic activity when employees of those upstream suppliers spend their earnings (induced impact).
2. Vendors expend effort to produce saleable products and sell them to the public (value added).
3. Revenue vendors receive from selling their products goes partially to cover costs for goods they purchased, with the rest providing income that their households can spend on things they need, stimulating additional economic activity (induced impact). (2015, p. 4)

At every point in this cycle, tax revenue is generated, which is one way that vendors, despite not being a part of the formal economy, still are benefiting the economy of the community around them. One easy way this frequently happens is when vendors will primarily buy supplies from
other local businesses, keeping a flow of money within their surrounding community, and generating tax revenue for their local government. However, the policies and policing from the local government do not reflect the value that vendors bring to their community, particularly those in the IE.

Vendors were hit incredibly hard financially by the pandemic, after already only bringing home what was estimated to be (in Los Angeles) typically $10,000-$15,000 per year (Bennett et al., 2021; Liu, 2015). Initial costs for vendors include the startup costs of carts (in the thousands of dollars), permitting and inspection costs (varies, but will typically be hundreds of dollars), as well as administrative fees or other citation costs that are established by SB 946 for California vendors. Given their already low wages, these are huge economic burdens, and don’t even account for the cost of replacing supplies that are routinely unjustly seized by enforcement officers and not returned. The major impact of these costs on small-scale businesses is a form of what Hidalgo (2022) calls legal violence, in this case financially. Furthermore, Bennett et al. discuss the collateral effects of criminal charges, claiming that the charges send already low-income families into debt, further establishing “new barriers to housing, education and employment” (2021, p. 12). I argue the same would be true for administrative debts for the most part, as the financial burden is still there. Integrating vendors into the formal economy (as IC4IJ is trying to do) by implementing economic policy that is growth-focused instead of punitive will lessen the cyclical economic burden on vendors and their surrounding communities and instead foster economic justice.

**Street Vending, Immigration and Policing**

A large part of the vendor population in the Inland Empire (and Los Angeles) is undocumented immigrants, so it is worthwhile to look into how that aspect of their identity adds
additional layers onto their experience vending in Southern California. Particularly in recent years and the societal context of anti-immigrant bias, vendors have been subject to extreme criminalization and painted as threats to the United States (De Lara, 2018). Importantly, the framework of legal violence characterizes the categorization of vending-related ‘offenses’ as criminal. Such offenses were legally classified as misdemeanors until SB 946 was passed in 2018, and still are (unlawfully) issued today (Hidalgo, 2022; Payette et al., n.d.). This is compounded with the fact that “under a Trump Administration executive order on immigration enforcement, officials were instructed to prioritize for deportation those who ‘committed acts that constitute a chargeable criminal offense’” (Bennett et al., 2021). These two legal tactics combine to pose a serious threat of deportation to vendors who are given misdemeanors, even when this is now unlawful, as the practice still continues. Bennett et al. give one example of “a San Bernardino County single mother of five [who] was cited for vending in a park, detained by federal agents upon her release, and held in a detention facility away from her children for six months awaiting deportation proceedings—all due to a sidewalk vending citation” (2021, p. 12).

Furthermore, there has historically been a justification of increased police presence around vendors with the excuse of vendors being potential victims for crimes because of the cash they have on hand— even though there is no evidence that this actually made vendors safer (Bennett et al., 2021; Liu, 2015). If anything, Liu writes, vendors’ presence are correlated with a decrease in incidents of crime, likely because they make people feel known, neighborhoods more stable and established, and foster communities’ economic growth.

Despite this clear benefit that vendors’ presence provides in keeping their communities safe, they still have been targets of hateful attacks, not for carrying cash but purely because of their position as vendors. In 2017—though they continue today, as seen in (ABC7 News Bay
— Public Counsel attorney Doug Smith argued that this pattern of attacks can be linked to a broader pattern of legal violence that criminalizes vendors while also leaving them unprotected from “attacks, harassment, and extortion” (Hidalgo, 2022, p. 208). An important distinction between these attacks and the hypothetical ones police agencies used to justify their presence is a) their evidence-supported reality and b) the fact that these were targeted incidents of hate towards immigrant vendors, as opposed to chance opportunities to steal cash. Examining where support has been offered between these two examples, it seems that police departments are more inclined to protect vendors’ cash than they are the vendors themselves.

Vending as an immigrant, particularly as an undocumented one, creates a justified sense of fear and stress. Bennett et al. (2021) write that vendors have even reported accidental burns suffered as a result of inattention when trying to cook but also watch out for police officers. Specifically in San Bernardino, only city and county code enforcement officials are supposed to be giving out vending-related administrative citations, not the Sheriff or police— but every code enforcement officer is accompanied by one of the two for ‘protection’ when going out to inspect and/or cite vendors (Fieldnotes, February 28, 2023). This is an example of the completely false narrative of criminalization that paints vendors as dangerous, and I would argue only further spreads such a message to the surrounding community, creating a positive feedback loop of criminalization of vendors that organizations like IC4IJ and the Los Angeles Street Vending Campaign are trying to combat.

Conclusion

Understanding the larger context of street vending in the United States is key to understanding street vending in the IE, more specifically in San Bernardino. This is a practice that holds much social, nutritional, and cultural value to the communities vendors work in.
However, the sidewalk has historically been a political site, with vendors fighting for the right to occupy the space. The state has not supported this, and has instead created obstacles to economic growth as well as furthered narratives of criminalization and threat regarding immigrant vendors. Moving forward into the specifics of San Bernardino, much of the national phenomena and narratives are still present, but are being productively challenged, speaking to the importance of local, community-based research and advocacy efforts as the path forward towards social change.
Methodology

Because SB 946 decriminalized street vending, this practice of targeted citation shouldn’t be occurring—and yet, vendors are still facing code enforcement officers and receiving citations. In order to understand the best practices for street vending now (including strategies to avoid citations) and also to tailor advocacy and legal goals, IC4IJ is aiming to get a better understanding of the violations that law enforcement is citing for, and which enforcement agencies are doing so. This is being accomplished by collecting the citations and documents vendors are receiving. At the start of my internship, the citations that IC4IJ is collecting were sitting as images on a Google Drive. A key part of my role as a fellow was to create a digital system where all of the citation filings can be organized, so as more citations come in, they can be streamlined and integrated into one place. This will directly help IC4IJ staff and in turn, the vendor community because it will be an efficient and easy to navigate method of organizing the relevant documents. The system will also allow organizers’ energy that would otherwise be spent processing logistical elements to be better focused on action-oriented efforts.

After creating the organizational system, I have been extrapolating patterns about where these citations are happening and the agencies they are coming from. My research this semester has focused on analyzing said patterns, and investigating their legality. This has primarily involved the use of archival research, including reading through the citations themselves and investigating the alleged violations on a case-by-case basis. On a broader level, I have also looked into municipal codes that outline violations and how street vending ought to be regulated for San Bernardino city and county. My analysis of the citations has also factored in their geographic location, and I have utilized Google mapping software to investigate and present spatial trends in citation practices. In terms of a theoretical framework, this is grounded in
abolitionist scholarship: Ruth Wilson Gilmore writes that “A geographical imperative lies at the heart of every struggle for social justice; if justice is embodied it is then therefore always spatial, which is to say, part of a process of making a place.” (2022, p. 107). Furthermore, she outlines how such a focus on place and geography is executed and its’ potential contributions:

“The political geography of race entails investigating space, place, and location as simultaneously shaped by gender, class, and scale. By centering attention on those most vulnerable to the fatal couplings of power and difference signified by racism, we will develop richer analyses of how it is that radical activism might productively exploit crisis for liberatory ends. The usefulness of such an approach enables reconsideration of historical geographies, radical examination of transitional geographies, and the difference between the neutral fact of unequal power and its fatal exploitation. [...] The focus demands examination of the subjective and objective nature of power and difference as articulated and naturalized through racism; one can follow the reasoning, and adjust the methods, for studying interrelated fatalities. In other words, we must change aspects of both the forces and the relations of knowledge production in order to produce new and useful knowledges.” (Gilmore, 2022, p. 118).

Through my creation of a citation mapping system, I aim to create the foundation for such a racial-spatial-gendered-class analysis of street vending in the IE. This is a project whose scope is too large for me to complete in one semester, but having the foundational tools and initial analyses (particularly around space and the economic perspective) will serve as a starting point for future research in this area.

I complemented this work with informal interviews with local vendors, to the best of my ability given a language barrier with my lack of Spanish-speaking skills. Focusing on involving the community directly affected as much as possible, I have been able to visit local street vendors and purchase their food. Building on the work of past CASA interns with IC4IJ, I conducted interviews with local vendors focused on their interactions with code enforcement and the
citation process, while also asking about the community they belong to and the cultural value that comes from street vending.

Specifically, my project goals were as follows:

1. Create an organizational system for street vendors’ citations
2. Analyze and display patterns in citation practices and their implications for street vendors

Through both the archival research process and the more qualitative aspects, I took rigorous reflective field notes that will also inform my perspective and presentation of my findings. This paper will discuss these findings and their consequences for street vendor advocacy in the city and county of San Bernardino.

This research was primarily project based, and will produce a tangible, usable product for organizers in IC4IJ and the larger community to use after my fellowship ends. In line with Stoecker’s project-based research model, my work was “driven by community/organizational interests” and “closely related to practical issues” (Stoecker, 2013, p. 8). This model is characterized by involving the community at every step of the research process, and drawing on the pre-existing resources and research needs of the community in creating a meaningful, useful research project that can be used as a tool long after the process itself is completed, which in this case would be my fellowship (Stoecker, 2013). Specifically, the quantitative patterns and analyses of street vendor citation practices will be crucial evidentiary support for vendors in their advocacy efforts with city council, and other government entities. This research will allow them to supplement their lived experience and narratives with data and an understanding of comprehensive trends, making their facts “airtight” in their advocacy efforts (Stoecker, 2013, p. 10).
Furthermore, while the main data points will be objective citations and documents, I also approached my analysis through an asset-based community development (ABCD) framework. The ABCD model is “based on building relationships of trust, respect, and reciprocity among community members and then mapping out the capacities and assets of individuals, groups, and institutions.” (Hicks Peterson, 2017, p. 36). Specifically with my project, ABCD entails examining the issues in how laws concerning street vending are being implemented. Thus, it doesn’t focus on community flaws, but rather the flaws and harm caused by the government policing the community. Moving into the findings section, this approach informed my decisions where to focus my analysis and how I interpreted the emerging results.
Findings & Implications

Data was collected from citation images, target research into state laws and local city ordinances, as well as interviews with vendors and field notes. Five major themes emerged: Ordinances, Timing & Frequency, Cost, Confusion & Inaccessibility, and Policing, Surveillance, & Criminalization.

Ordinances

Between 27 citation instances, there were 16 different ordinances listed, 15 of which were referenced as the ordinance a vendor violated. The comprehensive list is below:

1. S.B.M.C. 5.30.030 (A) (X 9)
   a. Link (control F 5.30.030)
   b. Sidewalk vending permits required to operate
2. SBCC 33.0408 (a) Non-Permitted Food Facilities (X 9)
   a. Link
   b. Permits required for “non-permanent” food facilities
      i. San Bernardino County Code
      ii. Section d outlines mobile food facility plan check/commissary/giving DEHS schedule of locations on monthly basis
3. SBCC.83.02.030: Clear Sight Triangles (X 2)
   a. Link
   b. Height requirements for street corners
4. CVC 5204 (X 3)
   a. Link
   b. California Vehicle Code?
   c. Vehicles need to be registered and have tabs displayed, includes language about issuing citations
5. CVC 5200 (X 2)
   a. Link
   b. California Vehicle Code?
   c. License plates need to be displayed
6. SMBC 5.04.005: operating without a valid business license, not continuous violation (X3)
   a. Link
b. Unlawful to do business without registration certificate from city
c. Separate violations for each day business is continued without registration
7. SBCC 82.06.040 Industrial Uses and Permit Requirements
   a. Link
   b. Development Code; Industrial/Special Purpose Land Use Zoning Districts, specific permits required for different areas outlined in table
8. SBMC 15.24.040A5 Vehicle on Unimproved Surface
   a. Link
   b. Within maintenance for single family residences, vehicles shall be parked in designated areas and unoccupied
9. SBDC 19.06.030(B)(2) Commercial Storage
   a. Link
   b. Outside storage confined to rear of property and screened from public view, with no storage on vacant parcels
10. SBDC 19.06.020 Commercial Development Permitted Use
    a. Link
    b. Commercial zones subject to permits (outlined in table)
11. SBMC 5.04.495(A) Transient Vendor
    a. Link
    b. Transient vending is unlawful (seemingly in direct contradiction with SB 946)
    c. No vending from temporary stands, on sidewalks/easements/etc.
12. SBMC 5.04.496 Transient Vendor (person authorizing)
    a. Link
    b. Property owners cannot authorize transient vendors to use their property to vend
13. IPMC 3013 Vacant Land and Structures
    a. Link
    b. International Property Maintenance Code (what is this? Can SB City Code Enforcement use it?)
    c. Vacant structures and land shall be kept in safe and sanitary condition so they don’t affect public health or safety
14. SBMC 9.93.040: duration, frequency, seriousness, misdemeanor, history, economic impact, impact on community; (X 4)
    a. Link
    b. Used in determining administrative civil penalties
    c. Guidelines for date fines accrue, penalties end when corrections have been made, gives factors that hearing officer can consider when determining amount of penalties
    d. Not an ordinance cited as a violation itself
15. 10.16.020: No Parking at Any Time
    a. San Bernardino City Municipal Code
b. Link

c. Parking prohibited at all times within certain areas; where signs are posted as warning, vehicles can be towed

16. 10.16.280
a. San Bernardino City Municipal Code
b. Link
c. No parking in off street parking area without proper registration, can issue ‘parking control notices’ as enforcement

There are a wide variety of ordinances cited across this set of citations—15 within 27 instances. Most of them are housed within the San Bernardino municipal code, or county code, which contain sections that are written intentionally to regulate street vending. However, there are also unrelated sections cited, including the California Vehicle Code, SB County Development Code, and an International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), none of which were written to regulate street vending. This signifies a targeted effort towards vendors, using a variety of seemingly unrelated ordinances simply to criminalize and punish them. Furthermore, this places vendors at a disadvantage from the very start—even if they were to look into laws governing street vending (which should not be a necessary step), they would likely not find all of these ordinances that are allegedly relevant to their work, as codes are inaccessible and not directly related to street vending. For example, the IPMC is not even an enforceable code, and thus should not be directly cited— the fact that it is included demonstrates incompetence on the part of the agency issuing citations (Field Notes, 4/26/2023).

Another example of general incompetence is Section 5.04.495 in the San Bernardino City Municipal Code. This section states that:

“It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to offer for sale, trade, or barter, to create, to possess items to be sold, traded, or bartered, or to sell, trade, or barter any items including but not limited to manufactured items, homemade items, packaged and unpackaged goods, commodities, food, agricultural products, vehicles, furniture, or any other item or to offer any service, from a temporary
stand, or other temporary location, upon any public street, alley, sidewalk, right-of-way, easement, or other public place, doorway of any room or building, unenclosed building, building for which no certificate of occupancy has been issued, vacant lot, front or side yard, back yard (except as permitted in chapter 5.68 of this title), driveway, parking lot, or parcel of land, either paved or unpaved, at any time except as permitted pursuant to Chapter 19.70.” (Transient Merchants/Vendors and Temporary Businesses Prohibited, 2011).

This seems to be in direct contradiction with the legalization of street vending, which is the act of selling from a temporary location—precisely what SB 946 made legal and punishable only by administrative citation. Yet somehow it remains in the municipal code and is being cited as an ordinance that is violated. Such institutional incompetence bleeds into a lack of clear, outlined processes for vendors to follow after getting a citation, such as how to understand court dates, request their seized property back, or even be fully aware of one’s rights. These all have tangible, material and financial consequences when left unaddressed or presented in a misleading fashion. Thus, this obscenely wide variety of ordinances that are referenced as laws that were violated in vendors’ citations for engaging in nearly the exact same activity are not only confusing and misleading, but also serve as an obstacle to vendor success—and thus economic justice. Even as a researcher who has dedicated large amounts of time to understanding these laws, they are not completely clear to me. Even my vendor-organizer supervisors and attorneys with whom I have spoken do not have a confident handle on the legal landscape in regards to what can be used to regulate street vending and not. This leads to contradictions and general obscurity as to the regulations that vendors need to ensure they are operating in compliance with—thus stifling vendor growth. In the context of previously discussed literature, it becomes clear that this is one element of the legal violence facing vendors, and how the state (in this case, San Bernardino government agencies) weaponize any legal tools they can find to target vendors (Hidalgo, 2022). Furthermore, these findings add another layer to Koch’s (2015) discussion of the power that the
state holds in controlling permitting and licensing processes—the power in San Bernardino also lies in the ordinances that are used to govern street vending.

Another important trend regarding ordinances is the content of the state bills, the type of street vending they do and do not provide protections for, and how that impacts which vendors face the most citations. Specifically, approximately 70% of the vendors cited were taco vendors. This is due in large part to the way that SB 946 and 972 were written, as there is no legal pathway that permits the setup that many of the vendors that IC4IJ works with have: often using a stand with a canopy, chairs, and lights at which they prepare raw meat for tacos and other dishes. SB 972 also outlines different tiers of mobile food preparation that range from pre-packaged chips to preparing raw meat on-site, as well as the corresponding preparation, cart, and permit requirements. There is no pathway for vendors that prepare raw meat to get a permit other than a food truck, which is not representative of how these vendors have been cooking food on sidewalks for years (San Bernardino Environmental Health Services, 2023). This points to a need for further advocacy on the part of vendors and organizers, as vendors who are not covered in the bills are also the ones affected most greatly by continuing citations. Not only does this support the argument for a moratorium on issuing citations, but also for further legislation that creates pathways to permits and legal operations for the taco vendors that are already operating based on their experiential expertise.
Timing/Frequency

The chart “Time Distribution” indicates the distribution of times that each of the citation instances occurred, all in PM format with the exception of one that was given shortly after midnight. “Days of Week” indicates that 48.1% of citations were given on Friday, and 22.2% and 18.5% were given on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. In total, a striking 88.8% of citations were given out on Friday-Sunday. Of course, it’s impossible to know how much of this is 1) due to the fact that these are the most popular days for vendors to work, and 2) how many vendors are open during the week that avoid citations compared to when they operate on weekends, but these could be areas of future research. The same goes for time—7 and 8pm, the most common times for citations were issued, are also common times for vendors to work and customers to search out dinner. However, a more thorough mapping of when (and where) vendors operate could be developed and compared to the patterns of citations. Any differences between the two might provide an indication of patterns of enforcement officers as well as vendor strategies to evade citations and continue working. Such strategies are already in place: anecdotally, I heard along the course of my work with IC4IJ that vendors have pushed their hours later and later in an effort to avoid enforcement and the risk of
citations. When I asked for recommendations of vendors to visit, any options before 9pm were extremely limited, and one of the most popular and largest vendor markets (before it was shut down by code enforcement at the end of March) would open late and stay open until 1 or 2 am (@909tacolandia | Instagram, n.d.). Given that vendors are already adapting their schedules and locations to protect both their business and themselves, such quantitative data can be used to track the efficacy of and bolster pre-existing strategies, as opposed to suggesting new ones. This pattern could also indicate an area for further exploration within street vending research: while there were discussions of the political nature of geographies, space and place, there was no mention of time in the literature I reviewed. Undoubtedly, street vendors’ consumers, as well as their business’ reach, popularity, and accessibility will vary substantially based on the day and time. Further research should more closely investigate vendors’ methods of avoiding citations by changing their operating time, as this could be yet another area where the state is exercising power and negatively affecting the economic potential and success of vendors (particularly if they are being pushed out of the most lucrative time slots).

Cost

The chart “Fine Cost Distribution” shows the distribution of fine cost, ranging from $50 to $1000 per citation. This calculation does not account for vendors who have multiple citations, for whom the total cost accrued could be even greater. Among these are 9 different fees of $250, and 5 fees of $100. There are also multiple instances of additional charges from penalties, which range from a one-time penalty of around $30 all the way to a
threatened penalty of $1,000/day for each day that the vendor doesn’t change their operation to be in compliance with the cited regulations. Going by the metrics mentioned earlier, if a vendor is making approximately $15,000 per year, then a $1,000 fine would make up 6% of their yearly income (and $250 would be 1%). The two citations from 2023 are administrative, indicating compliance with the aspect of shifting citations to administrative instead of criminal. However, SB 946 legalized vending beginning in 2019, and all of the 9 misdemeanor citations that IC4IJ organizers have collected happened either in 2021 or 2022— thus occurring unlawfully. This illustrates the financial imposition that vendors face: the shift from issuing misdemeanors to administrative citations perpetuates a narrative that these measures decriminalize sidewalk vending. In reality, they are simply a shift from a criminal punishment to an economic one, and still impose a large negative financial burden onto vendors. This thus serves as a quantification of Hidalgo’s (2022) concept of legal violence, in this case within a shift from criminality to economic imposition. As mentioned previously, street vending is an industry that many low-income, undocumented immigrants turn to because of its low start-up costs. The financial burden of repeated citations serves as a huge barrier to the economic growth and stability of vendors (Estrada, 2019). These rampant financial charges are also a key piece of how San Bernardino city and other local government agencies play a role in confining the place of vendors to the informal economy (Hidalgo, 2022).

Confusion/Inaccessibility

A major obstacle that vendors face at every stage of the regulation and citation process is access to transparent information. This starts with public health agencies clearly communicating local requirements and regulations so that vendors have a clear understanding of how they can sell in a lawful way. It is important to note within this that the materials on the San Bernardino
County Public Health website regarding sidewalk vending have been changed even in my short 4 months as an intern with IC4IJ. While there has been an effort made to create more accessible, educational graphics and hold forums with vendors, these have been few and far between and are only a first step of a long path. During a workshop on street vending regulations hosted by San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS), my supervisors and I asked clarifying questions about the regulations and vendors’ setups that lay beyond the scripted information provided on the slides. We were met with vague answers that did not provide further insight— it was unclear to me whether this was an intentional vagueness, or if there simply was a lack of sufficient institutional knowledge (Fieldnotes, 2/28/2023). This meeting did provide a useful opportunity for vendors and organizers to learn the specific names and individuals within the EHS office who they could reach out to, or ask for when walking into the office. Also at this meeting, I learned that this would be valuable information because it would prevent vendors from being blocked from meeting with staff in EHS, either by a receptionist or automated phone line. Generally, there seems to be a gradual effort from EHS officials to more clearly communicate the guidelines and available pathways to vendors particularly around necessary permits, but there is much room to improve in both content and outreach. This lack of clarity serves as a foundation for IC4IJ’s call for a moratorium on issuing citations in San Bernardino city, which is an ongoing advocacy effort (which I was able to support by writing a template letter to the city council).

Furthermore, this lack of clarity is not solely seen on the part of organizers and vendors from the information-gathering perspective, but also seems to be an internal issue. This was one of the issues raised in the February 28 meeting with EHS, but we were not given a clear answer on which agency (police, code enforcement, health inspectors, etc.) has the authority to issue
citations beyond a clear county agency authority over unincorporated areas—other than that it varies based on city ordinances. This confusion from all parties is also represented in the citation data, particularly with regard to city boundaries—there are several areas with multiple citations clustered around city boundaries, so close that I even had to catch google maps’ mistake in identifying the city and zip code as different than the city boundaries defined in the county map. Given that this holds significant consequences for regulation and enforcement, clearly defining city boundaries in outreach materials would be a useful endeavor. Specifically, publicizing such boundaries beyond a GIS map layer (which will likely only be used by researchers doing mapping projects similar to mine) would be particularly important.

General confusion is further evidenced by the paperwork used to issue citations, many of which have pre-selected ordinances skipped over and the ordinance cited hastily penciled in (in sometimes illegible handwriting), indicating that such forms were not intended to function primarily for regulating street vending. There is even a form clearly designed to be used by San Bernardino Police that has a code enforcement sticker taped over the bottom, demonstrating a lack of coordination, preparation, and understanding on behalf of government entities that has legal and financial effects on vendors. Authorities are using other agencies' forms because they are lacking the infrastructure to properly and clearly regulate street vending, thus pulling things together haphazardly, and leaving vendors to bear the bulk of the consequences through confusing and targeted enforcement practices. Instructions regarding vendors’ rights to reclaim goods seized by enforcement officers, as well as procedures on how to go about doing so, or details on how to check the date of a scheduled court proceeding are often not communicated to them in person. In fact, they are often solely written (usually only in English, which is another issue and barrier to clear communication from the state to vendors) on the back of the physical
citation they are issued (Fieldnotes, 2/28/2023). Thus, the stakes are high for the forms being correct, and if instructions for how to demand seized goods be returned from the police department are different than how to demand them from code enforcement. If the forms are misaligned, then it is nearly impossible for vendors to assert their right to have their property returned back to them.

Firsthand accounts from vendors support this claim—one vendor, known for the sake of this paper as (a pseudonym) ‘Mateo’, shared an incident where, after seizing property, the code enforcement officer not only didn’t inform them of their right for the property to be returned to them but also shared incorrect information: Mateo said “They would just tell us just pay… They weren’t gonna give us back the equipment, and they said we can’t get it back.” (Interview, March 23, 2023, emphasis added). While the legal guidelines can be confusing, it is the role of city employees to ensure all parties involved in the process of enforcing regulations understand what is going on and what their role is—in this case, that includes making sure vendors know that they have a right to reclaim their property. This misinformation, and frankly, lying, on the part of the authorities is incredibly harmful and needs to be addressed immediately.

A large part of the support that IC4IJ provides for vendors with misdemeanor cases involves looking up cases in an online court portal, calling the court clerk, and connecting vendors with legal support from the public defender’s office. This was a large part of my task in managing citation data as well, and from many hours spent searching I can characterize the online portal as another obstacle vendors face in obtaining information about their own case. Its user interface is poor, and searching for vendors’ names almost always requires trial and error of every possible First/Middle/Last name combination, with a low success rate. This portal holds critical information about court hearing dates and proceedings, without which vendors could
miss hearings and be penalized for. The alternative option, calling the court clerk, is not one I have personal experience with but is something I have witnessed IC4IJ staff work on, waiting endlessly on hold— proving itself to be equally unhelpful.

In the case of looking up citations and case details, it takes a social network of people to be able to get the information you need, and IC4IJ staff are building a relationship with attorneys at the Public Defender’s office who offer aid in the lookup process (Fieldnotes, 4/25/2023). However, this legal component is something that can be another obstacle in and of itself, even if attorneys themselves are positioning themselves as tools and resources for vendors. This at its core is due to the harmful impact and threat of the legal system, particularly around immigration, that is an undeniable reality influencing vendors’ comfort level and willingness to engage with lawyers, who inescapably are another part of a threatening and damaging legal system (Field Notes, 4/25/2023; De Lara, 2018). Based on my limited experiences, events that provide attorneys the opportunity to come into community spaces where vendors feel more comfortable (as opposed to vendors being forced to go into potentially intimidating legal offices) to listen and offer advice can facilitate such relationships (Field Notes, 3/7/2023, 4/26/2023).

Regardless of the resources available, it should not take a practicing attorney to be able to understand the guidelines around vending, what permits are needed and how to obtain them, or what to do in the event that a vendor gets a citation. For a variety of reasons, perhaps including the relative newness of state laws and city ordinances, the inaccessibility of information regarding the legal aspects of street vending end up functioning as an obstacle that further alienates and criminalizes street vendors. This can be linked back to the construction of vending as part of the informal economy, as without the formal structure of economic support, there is a gray area created in which regulations and enforcement can be messy, biased, and inconsistent.
Permitting processes, options available after receiving citations, or even a
layman’s version of vending ordinances in each city would empower vendors and give them
much more agency to operate their businesses in a way that is resistant to targeted patterns of
citations.

**Policing, Surveillance, and Criminalization**

Vendors also expressed a sense of being targeted in interviews, which is supported
quantitatively through extensive financial costs, and an unreasonable variety of ordinances.
Mateo mentioned an instance where they could tell officers were trying to give a citation for
anything they could find, and even after getting a citation for vending, when driving home, they
were stopped again and given a separate traffic citation. He mentioned that the sergeant issuing
the citation claimed that they were selling tacos, based on an assumption made about the
equipment as opposed to actually witnessing them selling. This led to an unjust violation of
privacy and seizure of property. In his own words:

“That time the cop came first, then code enforcement after them. We have a
pickup and with that pickup we pull our trailer… On the pickup we have all the
warm food, it’s in the truck on the back and stuff… I told him, oh, I’m the owner,
I guess, and they were trying to take everything out, I told them whoa, you can’t
take everything out because I mean that basically is private property… We closed
it before they got to us. They were trying to take everything down from the trailer
and I was like you can’t do that… My truck was locked already, and they were
climbing onto my truck to take everything else… Basically he jumped into my
property.”

This officer completely ignored Mateo’s objections, and proceeded to invade his property, a
completely unjustified search, and the situation ended up resulting in the car being seized and
stored for a week on account of a traffic ticket. Keeping in mind that this blatant violation of
privacy happened already after an administrative citation was issued moments earlier for selling
food, it’s clear that this stop did not do anything to advance public safety, but rather served as a targeted crusade on vendors as a form of intimidation and further criminalization.

Adding to the sense of being targeted, or even tracked, another vendor, known as ‘Xavier’, mentioned a case where after facing questions from officers who showed up to his house, and later accumulating citations that were only sent via mail, he spoke to a staff member at the San Bernardino County Health Department and was given the ‘evidence’ of his own Instagram account as justification for the citations:

“I was selling out of my house during… COVID and code enforcement… came on a Wednesday, I don't even sell on a Wednesday!... They started taking pictures of my house. They came to talk to me, they're like… Do you sell food here?... they never saw me physically working and selling food. And…they'll come around, take pictures of my house.”

Xavier then shared how he discovered city employees were following and tracking his Instagram account after accumulating over $1000 in citation fines:

“And then I find out they're following me on my Instagram. And I found out they're following my Instagram is that I started getting tickets, right, citations… I spoke to the [health department] supervisor, his name was Gabriel. I go what's all these citations?...Have you guys seen me physically selling? And he's like yeah, I said, show me the evidence. So he gives me copies. Pictures of me, my garage is closed. No activity, only my canopy and maybe…some chairs on the side of my house... Then…they have a picture of my Instagram, … saying that you're open on these days.”

Critically, this means that the officers issuing the citation did not witness this vendor working (or breaking any laws) in-person, but instead were actively tracking their online presence and accordingly criminalizing them. Not only has the city given Xavier’s Instagram account as evidence in response to this vendor’s inquiries, but they have also used the account to track and surveil the vendor, as evidenced by an invasive phone call from a city employee in which they mentioned knowing his location when he was with IC4IJ at an advocacy action:
“she had called me when we were in San Francisco… She said, yeah, I know you're with the whole you know, street vendors in San Francisco. But can you call me when you have time?”

Watching a vendor’s instagram stories and surveilling their location is not within the jurisdiction of Code Enforcement’s work, and serves as an intimidation tactic that only generates fear within the vendor community.

Furthermore, this anti-immigrant sentiment manifested in the street vending conversation not only from the enforcement agency perspective, but also from civilian members of surrounding cities. At one city council meeting I attended in Redlands where a restrictive, punitive street vending ordinance was up for public comment, there were many people that advocated for making vending accessible, legal, and providing support for vendors in a number of ways. However, there was one particular resident who spoke in favor of the ordinance, and supported their position with anti-immigrant, meritocratic rhetoric that included accusing vendors of pouring grease down drains and peeing in bushes, as well as claiming that residents need to be “protected” from vendors (Field Notes, 4/4/2023). All of these different instances can be directly linked back to a broader anti-immigration narrative and sentiment from certain parties, and San Bernardino vendors are not alone in this struggle, as demonstrated by much of the literature discussed previously (see De Lara, 2018; Bennet et al., 2021; Hidalgo, 2022).

Vendors I interviewed and EHS officials told me that police officers still accompany code enforcement on nearly every outing. Police were present for 13 out of 27 issued citations, or nearly 50%. Of these 13, 5 involved a misdemeanor citation, and 6 involved parking tickets. The remaining 2 were an “Administrative Civil Penalties Notice and Order”, which according to the San Bernardino city municipal code can be issued by code enforcement officers or any other agent of the city with the authority to enforce “any provision of the municipal code” (CITE).
Utilizing police officers to issue such citations was an unnecessary display of force, and should have been avoided given the already established threat of violence, intimidation, and aggression created by police presence. Given that the authority to issue citations is not solely (if at all) within the police department, this police presence demonstrates the construction of a narrative that street vendors are a threat to the community's safety, further perpetuating a xenophobic narrative of vendors as dangerous. Particularly because most street vendors are undocumented, the larger dynamics of immigration, law enforcement, and the threat of deportation are palpable at every stage of a citation. This topic came up with one of my interviews: officers will generally ask for IDs when issuing citations, and Mateo shared that many of his undocumented employees “get scared… [that] they would get deported”, particularly if they show an ID from their home country instead of US documents. Such political dynamics underlie this process from the point an officer shows up all the way to when vendors work with attorneys (whose status and its impacts were previously mentioned) in case proceedings.

Such apprehension and fear regarding policing, identification, and street vending citations in San Bernardino is also reflected in the broader literature as an established pattern, and Bennett at al. (2021) write about compounding legal threats that come with misdemeanors for undocumented individuals. I also mentioned earlier that the state plays a large role in deciding which sorts of informal economies will be tolerated through “carceral and immigration regimes” (Hidalgo, 2022, p. 200). This sort of policing is precisely how the state’s power manifests in the San Bernardino region, and this data shows the devastating impact it can have on vendors.

Surveillance and enforcement to this scale is completely unjustified, as it’s been shown that vendors’ presence in communities have actually been shown with a decrease in incidents of crime (Liu, 2015). I also heard drives to find alternatives to such a carceral enforcement system
from the vendors I interviewed—Xavier particularly mentioned an interest in a vendor union, or some organized way of vendors being able to regulate themselves as the community that holds the most knowledge on preparing food safely, attracting customers without disrupting noise for others nearby, and so on. Such a community-focused approach to managing health and safety is a stronger, safer, and more supportive alternative to the current carceral practices (and aligned with abolitionist philosophies), and I would advocate strongly that this strategy is pursued further.
Conclusion

Data I have collected over this semester—in the course of filing and mapping citations, target research into state laws and local ordinances, as well as in two interviews with local vendors—indicate that even after SB 946 and 972 made vending ‘legal’, public authorities are still unjustly citing vendors. Patterns of this emerged in the ordinances referenced on citations; the timing, frequency, and cost of citations; general confusion and inaccessibility regarding regulations for vending; and the policing, surveillance, and criminalization of vendors. This case study of legal violence criminalizes street vendors and imposes a substantial economic burden, which affects not only individual vendors’ general and financial well-being, but also holds tremendous consequences for the surrounding community. Street vending is a racialized and economically consequential practice that deserves more support from the San Bernardino community and elected officials. The findings in this paper, as well as the internal Google mapping tool created for organizers at IC4IJ, will be useful tools in the fight for street vendor rights.
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Appendices (NOT FOR CIRCULATION)

Appendix A, General Scripts

Recruitment Script:

“Hello, I am a student from the Claremont Colleges who wants to ask you some questions for research projects in an informal interview along with IC4IJ staff. Full confidentiality for anything shared publicly is assured and no participants will be identified in any publicly shared materials in order to maintain privacy and anonymity. There is no deception nor do we imagine any risk to result from participating in this research project. If you are interested or have any questions, feel free to ask them.”

Interview Questions

When and how did you start vending?

Where are you set up to sell now?

What kind of food do you sell?

What have your interactions been with law enforcement? What happened then?

What have law enforcement officers told you when issuing warnings or citations?

If you got a citation, did you have a clear understanding of what your next steps or options were in terms of how to pay or get your seized property?

Have you paid any citations?

What is your estimate of how much property value has been seized and discarded?
Appendix B, Oral Consent Script

You are being asked to participate in a research project conducted by Principal Investigator Tessa Hicks Peterson (Pitzer College), and Co Principal Investigator Neha Basu. You are being asked to participate because you are an active participant with IC4IJ.

The purpose of this study is to create space for the community to express opinions about street vending citations and enforcement. Participation will take place at scheduled appointments. It will take the form of individual interviews or in a group setting as deemed most appropriate for you.

We do not anticipate any risks for you participating in this study, other than those encountered in day-to-day life. Should discussion of these topics create emotional discomfort or distress, you can withdraw from the research and/or consider utilizing local resources to secure support (Community organizer/psychotherapist, Lourdes Arguelles, has offered low-cost therapy to our community partners - she can be contacted at at Clinebell Institute at (909) 451-3690 or https://theclinebellinstitute.org/) There is no intention of risks with your participation in this study as all information shared publicly will be de-identified and oral consent prevents the exposure of residence status/ citizenship, exposure of personal or confidential information. I hope that this research will benefit you and your community by providing insight into the needs of the community that may directly enhance quality of life for other vendors.

Please understand that participation is completely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will in no way affect your current or future relationship with IC4IJ, the Claremont Colleges, or with the researchers directly. You have the right to withdraw from the research at any time without penalty. You also have the right to refuse to answer any question for any reason, without penalty.
Unless explicitly requested, the researchers will NOT personally identify you in their final research. All discussions will be audio recorded (with your consent) and all recordings will be kept to the sole use of the researchers in password protected files. If researchers want to use sound bites for external purposes, we will consult with the participants and obtain oral consent again before sharing anything publicly.

The researcher(s) conducting this study are Tessa Hicks Peterson and Neha Basu. Please ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you may contact them at: (909) 607-9402, 1050 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711 and tessa_hickspeterson@pitzer.edu. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a subject in this study, you may contact the Pitzer College Institutional Review Board at irb@pitzer.edu

In giving your oral consent, you are acknowledging your understanding of the given information and have had all of your questions about participation in this research project answered.
Appendix C, Interview Transcripts

Vendor 1 (pseudonym: Mateo):
Unknown 0:00
Last time
Unknown 0:11
so while we were waiting I was just asking for like just the story of how they started vending so I got a little bit of that but I guess Could I ask more? Well how how long ago did you guys start breading where you started I think on like where the taco what is it that pizza guys are at in the tire shots that that's I think where you guys got the citation so when How long ago did you start there?
Unknown 0:38
2017
Unknown 0:42
and before before when you got your citations, I think you got them in 2021 I'll double check now but before then you never got cited to police come around.
Unknown 0:58
Sometimes it'll just give us a chance to pick up our stuff. Or sometimes there will be citation as a few citations and before that but yeah, and um, I happen often, sometimes overnight sometimes. Or sometimes you have stuff like Google officer at every step
Unknown 1:28
and that was 2017 Till now
Unknown 1:35
we started setting on this
Unknown 1:43
and again, TVs had police and some city people right. Or main police. What
Unknown 1:52
were you able to tell from the city was there like was it court enforcement was it Yeah, it wasn't the county or
Unknown 1:59
first it would be just the police and and like I say I'm the only one officer until like because they'll go one by one. So let's say there was like seven stands. Don't do officer each one. So they started with it with the code unfortunately and they'll wait until they'll catch up. So they
Unknown 2:16
would have like a police officer stationed at every step. And then then the code enforcement would go along. They weren't they weren't preventing you guys from leaving if you wanted to just pick up and go to wherever you got
Unknown 2:32
time that they were only had once one or two like though just to call for some study on $1 by your school, but it was a few times and they were they weren't
Unknown 2:42
what they tell you you can't leave. They just
Unknown 2:45
don't pick up your stuff. Which is really important.
Unknown 2:53
And then who would it be? We you your mom and some other people workers and you were always on the eucalyptus corner no like burgers and all identify that on the map or something.
Unknown 3:13
But I know we're the ones by the holyport know the tire shop
Unknown 3:18
is a tire shop and pizza place the pizza places the one that would always complain. Just remember No, I already showed me them. And you said this happened multiple times. Yeah.
How how frequently
Unknown 3:37
have hit hard like a weekend and it just depends on
Unknown 3:47
when that started happening, I think I remember your mom sharing that they will start you will start setting up like at 10pm or later. Is that the latest you were start setting up or how late and when that would happen? Like you would basically escape the enforcement.
Unknown 4:04
There was a time Yeah, because I guess take the railroad don't go around. Don't just take a drive and look for the vendors and stuff and expand my guess because I would go out earlier this morning. And they'll stop like I said at 6pm So after that in turn by that everybody will start saying no because I guess we should be rather dangerous. So
Unknown 4:38
when the police would confront you all they would ask for sorry if I missed it they would ask for IDs permits what what was their first questions or they would immediately say you know, whatever they say for him
Unknown 4:51
sometimes they just say they're just like kinda like a salad just let us go like, you know, like you guys can be selling here. There's got to pick up your stuff you guys can leave or citation and when they will cite us they would be like they're just asked for ID and then just go into the citation and then we'll tell which is wait for a quarter for sample cover. And we want to quote unfortunately
Unknown 5:15
and there's times that the employees didn't have IDs I think something happens. Some employees don't have ID or do they have like a one from their home country?
Unknown 5:25
Yeah, they haven't like
Unknown 5:27
show it. They're afraid to show
Unknown 5:29
yeah, they're just scared because they don't get the porters
Unknown 5:41
I know there's another specific case but anything else. Other other case they can ask about that your mom has shared and I don't think we've documented it too much but it's um there was a time when they, they they came and cited you all you were trying to protect you or your mom or whoever was trying to protect the stuff the trailer and the truck. But then someone drove away and they
Unknown 6:10
were going home or
Unknown 6:11
start from the beginning for that one.
Unknown 6:16
We're sitting or sitting up but they were all set up. Basically, we always put always like the
canopies and the tables and stores that we have. That was only things that we had down tables,
the stores and the canopies. So like by that time, so when the cop came first and then call for
court enforcement after them but we have we have we have a pickup and with that picker we pull
out our trailer and our data trailer we have everything like the like the grill like everything else.
By the trailer was closed and on the Pickup we have all over the world food. So like perming it's
in a truck and the backend stuff. So I was talking to him. Can I tell you oh, I take them and tell
them I'm the owner I guess. And they were trying to like take everything out I'm told them well
you can take everything because I mean that basically is pirate papparich is close it's not even
open because the trader was so was coastal. Yeah, we close the washing them putting them up.
So we close them before they were trying to take everything down from the trailer and I was like
you can do that. And then as far as the food my truck was cut was latterly and they were
claiming on top of my truck to take everything out from the truck like everything. Yeah.
Basically I started jumping into my property you can do that easily as private property basically,
Unknown 7:44
he went into you're kidding us permission to go into your car either.
Unknown 7:47
Yeah, exactly. And it was like connecting they were jumping on top of the bed and back to carrot
enough. And I was like you can't do that. Like it's that's that's my property is that you can go into
somebody's property without permission and like search your car without or without a warning
or something.
Unknown 8:03
Yeah, and when you told them like util did they just dismiss here?
Unknown 8:09
Well, they they they they sent out the new like, I guess I know how to protect. So they didn't take
anything from the trailer. It just took everything like the food and stuff. Even though we didn't
bring it down. We were still on the truck.
Unknown 8:22
Nothing was was where some of those items this is where it gets tricky and we don't know for
sure that we're gonna ask these different questions to the attorney later. For some of those things
open at all like where they like they were already cooked or like cutter.
Unknown 8:41
We have everything like containers. So Verity is like a company as what package what else we
don't need to use until like on the spot until everything's honored. The tools are made fresh,
Unknown 8:54
but wasn't anything super packaged. Like from the store. Signing services you probably like the
Unknown 9:04
decent containers covered with
Unknown 9:07
plates were covered or covered

Unknown 9:09
would take new packets or like new pack reopened.
Unknown 9:14
That's what I'm gonna ask the attorney that stuff that's super packaged fine and compared to the things that you still have stored that are like yeah, we'll talk about but if this stuff we're gonna figure it out.
Unknown 9:28
Well, yeah, that took me to notice more after that. They took the food and everything else I was already like set up like the canopies and tables and stools outside for that and they didn't meet the ticket. So they are your knee. Yeah, yeah. And then so they left the left and after couldn't pick the person they left and then on our couples right there so we're gonna hammer ad and like, like a block away from there one of the cops pull the woman I was there I was in charge. They put the truck there pull the trailer. They pull them over, supposed to you because the front window tempo we don't have a window tab. So so that was kind of like the screws that he pulled us over with this stuff today. Yeah, I suppose in 10 And so after the guy calls me up Hello. He calls me Hey, we'll go Palooza right so I'll go there and ask the office I will always recent that's the reason he gave him and so I was kind of dragging him and I was trying to
Unknown 10:50
life is great.
Unknown 11:23
Sammy salsa as you probably like the blade
Unknown 11:30
was recently he kept on going like whoa, this and that. It was just like trying to I guess he was just trying to like, give a citation for something I guess I don't know.
Unknown 11:42
I don't have a goalkeeper and
Unknown 11:44
it turns out that the one thing I was driving here I have a license and it was my fault. So that's when I took the truck and certainly taken. I mean I think either way the guy would have pulled him over because he was just angry with us and then for one of the videos on pass, because she was recording the whole time after they pulled them over when the sergeant says I Oh, it's because he says it yourself always because you guys can tackle that and he says, Oh you guys want to tackle your
Unknown 12:15
tacos, but he didn't actually see you selling tacos.
Unknown 12:18
No, no, it was the officer who was just he just came at the end like I guess the supervisor.
Unknown 12:24
He just saw like quipment and all that interesting stool that you were selling. And then he said because of that like the basically citing you for something you haven't done either.
Unknown 12:34
Dairy has cited us and stuff so like we're just going home because we're gonna drive home we live like two blocks away from Sparta. So we're going home literally around the corner when they got pulled over.
Unknown 12:47
And then I'm looking at the citation or does the citation end up saying that it was because of the the windows or did he end up making it about something else? I think he wrote something different. Just citation. The one I'm seeing says code and it just says all the misdemeanor that's
under your name just says nope. We're venting without a permit. But was there a traffic citation that I guess I don't have? Oh, you know what? It's probably under your mom's saying that they ended up giving the citation
Unknown 13:16
the trial traffic one.
Unknown 13:17
Yeah, that's the second one one day when we're gonna have my reading. She's actually got the window texts or I don't recall what he wrote down. But what he wrote down Yeah, yeah, dang because like, I was just at the end like he was just to hear out I was just trying to look at the paperwork I was gonna get from him to like, just leave because I mean, well, we have only Why would we have to wait there until like they picked up the trailer and the truck and they took the they took the truck and the trailer for us. So I was just trying to get the paperwork from him I like to leave but he wouldn't even let me get in Yeah, and I know he had to still early so I don't know why I'm just asking for my papers like I have to like like I don't know I just have things like that he was just doing like to shame was was functional on my back and that's the thing that we had because like like I said in the video on one recorded like she she recorded a whole conversation I was having with the officer and I was just I was just like calm. I was just asking them questions about like everything. And at the end I guess he got annoyed and stuff and he just like walked up and said hello say he said always because you guys are selling tacos.
Unknown 14:27
Oh look at that video. I'm gonna be have it saved I'm looking for the citation and I look at it. We asked more questions, but I don't know if he actually cites that specific section but we'll cross check with their why the while the citations and trying to see
Unknown 14:53
so then the guy that they get without a license because he was driving without a license right and even though there's a new law or whatever, I'm sorry if I'm missing it. So you got to the track because it's under your name or somebody's name right
Unknown 15:07
I'm a monster and and
Unknown 15:09
so then they tell them that they tell the driver. Well you don't have I think there's like another law that if you if you are driving without a license you have until maybe it's under with live demo, but did they give the driver a chance for you somebody who does have a license to come pick it up? Because then they towed it right?
Unknown 15:28
So that's what I want to go do and tell them we told them Hey, well, I mean, my mom's owner, she's right here. What can she just take it from like around the corner? And he wouldn't let us as I said, I would give it is a huge honor and a privilege just to like because I guess we got away with like the trailer and all the equipment used to work and they got mad about that and they want to go get us afterwards.
Unknown 15:53
And then it stays in the tow yard for
Unknown 15:56
I don't know like a bottle week like five days.
Unknown 15:59
You guys pay how much to get it up.
Unknown 16:04
Like in total almost 2000
Unknown 16:12
Any other questions about the Tony?
Unknown 16:15
Did they give you any, like itemized receipts and like anything that they gave you when they told her like and telling you where it was gonna be and yeah,
Unknown 16:26
I see. Okay. Yeah, I see. We're gonna have to check for the record. I'm gonna have to check the citation that I have on file. At least everything I have here will keep asking if you guys got anything else but I see that the only way I told you that it was going to be through Armada towing and the direction the location. But any problems with the towing like, Was it hard to get a hold of them? Was it because I think when your mom first told me I was afraid that Oh shit, they're gonna like how do you say that word ransack the truck and like it's gonna have missing parts and if the trailer also got taken away, then all that stuff is spoiled. So like, was there was it so my question is, was it hard? To get in contact with a towing company
Unknown 17:11
just took took us a while because it was that happened Friday night if I'm not mistaken. So stayed the whole week.
Unknown 17:17
When you got your car back and everything else was sitting in the same shape. Like it wasn't it wasn't
Unknown 17:29
then when you first call Did they tell you how much it was going to call it was going to cost each day or by the time we got a hold of them?
Unknown 17:35
Yeah, they told us how much was it every day? Like 60 something dollars every day.
Unknown 17:47
I feel like she said you guys went to the police station. What was that for?
Unknown 17:51
Like the releases and stuff they really released for the truck and trailer.
Unknown 17:59
So they kind of guide you guys on what to do or you guys have experienced
Unknown 18:05
let me come to London to your personal car and stuff like dinner occasion. You have to get like police. Police Report release for Thanksgiving your car afterwards. And that's
Unknown 18:17
why I stayed in there a week because they weren't really seen that
Unknown 18:20
report. Yeah. I mean, they close at the police station the bill by 4pm. You can they'll be exhausted but we have things to do during the day. So we're going to make some time
Unknown 18:34
and that all this happened I think last summer I'm saying last July. That was the last time you guys got hit the hardest. Yeah. So after that, nothing really has happened or warnings.
Unknown 18:46
No, because I guess now what are we what are we selling that? Some brand new producers out of their jurisdiction that they're so they don't stop with us? Because they be passing by like one. They still go out to bars with other vendors. And they pass in front of us but they never stop. Our front door shows Highland police
Unknown 19:12
you guys still set up next to Albert right? Yeah. Albert if he remembers is going to come right hot one. Baseline in sterling.
Unknown 19:25
Yes
Unknown 19:32
and the Highland shirts just like Do you see them? Yeah, they pass on thing or stuff. Sometimes when they they've been the gun. They're gonna tell us that we can sell and listen. I guess because people call them but because I mean every day like they pass by like, five six calf I mean, they never stop. Like and there's certain days I guess like, for example when I'm telling you, when court enforcement or somebody goes and cruises around or the other stands on them then they don't set up so they said up until like later 10pm 11pm So we said like around 5pm So everybody that's trying to for tacos they hit us so I guess that's a day so that's the day the Highland police stuff cuz I mean it feels obvious cuz somebody calls or something happens
Unknown 20:29
how big is your setup is it can you tell us if you were to draw it was what it how do you go set up then that
Unknown 20:39
we used to canopies. 10 by 20 comfy. So we put one on one side and then we put another one on the side of our long we saw before you feed for chairs and tables. Yeah. Under one of the canopies we put three tables with stools and the other one is who put the girl and I didn't like the table but the waters.
Unknown 21:03
How many are part of your team
Unknown 21:10
does down three three to four
Unknown 21:16
and there's enough parking in that lot.
Unknown 21:18
Yeah
Unknown 21:28
here's a question about police or you're aware last summer that I don't know if it was that same law because what the Court told you guys about that law, Albert? Yes. Okay. So when Albert was sitting up there, did you guys ever see the guy who got arrested really bad and when like they got a viral video of him? Like, what's that guy's name? But no one sets up other than you and Albert right now you guys. No one else might go over more of that but just wondering. This is highlighted drawing a blank on questions. I was gonna ask like, where what's your like prep setup in terms of like where you do prep and how you like
Unknown 22:15
back at home and prepared and at home
Unknown 22:22
and it's a house in Highland I wish we had Micro Home kitchens, they will be able to if it's something you guys ran or you didn't own any
Unknown 22:34
bows right.
Unknown 22:40
We hope that when we pass that law here things can work from home. And the other question would be do you guys have experience like working at a restaurant and that's how you like know how to do a lot of this or it's been like just tradition.
Unknown 23:00
traditions like Mexico and my mom also has been cooking missions with the show. My gosh, she had sent her the idea
Unknown 23:16
so I know that you guys know what to do, obviously like we wouldn't have a successful standard as far as like permits and like all like the formalities. Do you guys have anything like food handlers.
Unknown 23:29
No, we're actually trying to do the full handle rooms because we're not taco lasagna, but it was just trying to do something like the Columbia was a smarter spy. He was there was this guy when I was offering that just classes Mr. Binary we never got to it because I mean, that's part didn't really hear so.
Unknown 23:52
Giovanni? Yeah. Yeah, I know that when they tried it didn't work. It's difficult, but I'm asking because one of the things that would help I think is getting as much as you can. I've heard from other vendors that have like they present their food hunger, their food handler or like their health permit and even though they don't have permission to sell, it may dissuade them from giving you like more citations or stuff. Like I'm in the process of it. But one of the things I've been talking to him about and she hasn't been able to come in I understand why. But I want to invite you to come in if you want to is trying to get this help. We have a group that helps each other to get as many permits as he can be, so that you can sell at 10:30am in places like that that is possible in a place like that in a setup like that. It's different kinds of work and setup, but if you're interested, I've been talking to your mom about that. And she she wanted to join the group to get started on those on those permits for that kind of sale, that kind of ending. But if your mom can make it and you're interested, let me know and then we can get started with that. And that would be one way to get away from selling on the street. But if you want to continue selling on the street then knowing that so that's also up to up to you but I just wanted to invite you to come into that because I know your mom has been trying to and she hasn't been able to but if you want to be if you want to learn more about it and then we can talk and I can regroup and figure out those those steps. But that was the thing that those two brothers were going to be doing as well. Helping people get like whatever from as they can, so that they still can they can have a whole event where vendors can sell without being like on the street and bothered by the by the authorities and all that. So you're welcome to you have a number, send me a message, a message or a call. And then I'll start working with you on that. And then when your mom is better and ready then we can work with her too. But another thing that another way would be for you to get it so that even if you're gonna lose a comment you haven't and you can say oh she's my employee or something like that. So yeah, just let me know about that. But as far as question for this, I think I'm the only
other Yeah, I was just I would thought the only other thing I was asking the guys if you have anything beautiful colors. You want any other no other kind of like certifications
Unknown 26:29
because even if they used to work in a restaurant,
Unknown 26:31
I mean, back in like 2019 do some work. So work with those up to like right now
Unknown 26:40
in some of the employees again this is all confianza we're on immigrant rights organization. So even now I caught myself on it was like I sound like code enforcement. We're not going to share this with anyone. It's just for us to know okay, how much training do people need? What else do we need? Like it's definitely sounds like you know, your rights and what other rights can people know so that we put these like, barriers are these little band aids right now until everything else happens, right. But um, are my two questions. My next question is, Are most of the workers usually undocumented? That work on your team? Yeah. And then the second thing is so your mom worked with us for like a whole year a little bit more than a year to remember in 2018. We tried to pass something in the city we did it wasn't the best but we were all confused. We thought that that was going to give permits to people to sell like a cell and a lot more and so on. And so now there's laughter she worked with us and she was key right? She was on the news with us sometimes all these things and so we know that maybe she might be feeling she told us I think at one point but she knows that there's hope in the in the near future. That hopefully in the end of this year, there will be a cart another cart design so that you guys can sell at least in a smaller cart. I think the size of your plants are a little bit bigger, to be able to sell actual top tacos, right? Maybe there's not going to be a totem pole. We think that there's going to be something that can work where you can cook at home and this city allows it this county allows it to and if not, you're going to be able to cook at a kitchen and so I've told her some bad stuff and she's like yeah, I know it's another step it's more formalizing could be a headache, but at least we got it and and so it's ideal to be able to do what we're going to do. So another guy we know from LA is telling us yeah, there's other cards in the process. So I guess my my question, but it's a question. It's just to tell you what we want. It's not perfect. So right now that is where it goes on to tie what you're saying. She's she's trying to teach folks with another person how to do events, and it's what your mom also learned about in 2019. But there was this weird guy that was trying to do the food fest you know, last week RV'ing and all that stuff. So then people like, and he's such a weird person. So no one followed him to do that event in downtown. I don't know if you guys ever sold in downtown when he was pulling people from the streets and and saying go bend in downtown because now the law allows you to remember going
Unknown 29:18
oh, I wasn't adding water cuz I've stayed back over here at Highlands because I think Andreea for a couple of weeks. I think we try to stand
Unknown 29:29
out as our pilot like that. You go that's an option but the interest the cart doesn't exist. Then we want folks also experiment with TFF and then just like you guys split, I think we've we've contracted you guys a few times. We're like your mom and a worker will come here whatever and orally to the other office. And then you will still sell on the street. That's the same same concept. So let an event and then get your cart if you can to sell on the sidewalk so you have more freedoms that have been and you have less competition in a sidewalk versus on an event. But it's like putting anything
Unknown 0:00 (add 30 min to timestamp at this point)
I just My question was in regards to that, like, you don't have to answer me now or you know, but I would encourage you to think with your mom to ideally like in a perfect world, what would be your goal? Like do you want to? Would your goal be to be on the on a sidewalk and have like different stones? Would your goal be to have a restaurant? Would your goal be to continue having like, like catering, like as far as like your business? What? If in a perfect world you could have it? What would that be? Because then that way, we can also inform our advocacy efforts like where we're gonna put energy towards like if most people are like, Nah, we still want to sell on the street because that's all right. And we like it like that. Cool that we can focus on that you know, but we need to know from people like you and your mom, what is what is your goal or like if you don't want to invest time and and and energy and like in making in making steps towards making street vending on a sidewalk that way you guys have it happen, then then, you know, we were not going to push other things. But the other reason I'm asking too, is because if your goal is to continue to be like a mobile service, either catering or like fair, so like temporary things like temporary events, then you will be a great fit for this group that I have working with them with other vendors. Now, if you're not interested in that don't feel forced or like obligated to it, it's fine. But also, you know, we know that there's a lot of there's very few options out there. do so legally and like not have to confront authorities and get your stuff taken away and all that stuff. We know that there are a few few options. So you know, we're working with what we have but the temporary the tip of the list I've mentioned is a temporary facility and it's the closest thing to street vending that is permitted at the moment. Now if your goal is to of course, like if your goal is to have a restaurant or something like that, and you don't see this fitting into it, and of course they'll you know, don't feel obligated but just to clarify like the the the way that street vending is right now like the way you guys have it. It there is no way to get permits to that there is no there there is no allowable way right now to be to set up like a grill and, and stuff like that and sell tacos there isn't unless that's a very long fight that we have ahead of us, which we'll be fighting for. But yeah, there isn't much to do to make it like a legal business in that way. So just keep that in mind. Just because I don't want to make sure I want to make sure that you don't leave here with like false hope. Because that's the last thing you want to do, which is we're just documenting all these things to see how we can what patterns we see so we can put our effort and everybody's time into that, you know,
Unknown 3:01
I'll have meetings to explain, like, whenever we interview people more and more to say, Okay, what's your goal, right? So we can answer that question or eventually answer it. But then also like she's providing all this information so that you get to see okay, like, what's closer, what's more possible? What do I want to do and how close am I thinking making it possible? And if it's if it's not too close, and does it feel to the whole group of vendors from San Bernardino, for example, want to fight for this one thing, or these two things that we have on our on our strategy map? So more of what she's saying there? And then and then and then so something seems so far away. So we're not going to spend too much energy there, but we'll expand on what's happening with your mom just helped us win. And to make sure that, like we make that movie, we see that happen. And if that's still not enough, then we're going to have to plan to see what else we can write. But I think TFF is where more people are gonna go. So we'll explain more of that. And then I would say do you know of any other vendors who are done work next to you or they used to work near you guys or they may just know that that would want to know this information or that there? Are they also questioning like, Oh, what is the quality I'm doing or you know, media,
your mom would hear this a lot like, Oh, you're going and going, like nothing's happening. Are you seeing that kind of attitude or that kind of questioning and that's fine if they are because we know we've confused people or whatever.
Unknown 4:26
will pretty much are the same ones our mom knows. Like no coupon
Unknown 4:32
them to friends with a lot of other
Unknown 4:38
eras. Ever since we moved on to like baseline studying it was just us and Albert. So we haven't we haven't really been catching up with like the girls. Pretty much the ones have really been I'm pretty sure they've been because and also one one lady. She does come here
Unknown 5:08
we've heard what Becky's thinking but she was also there at the beginning of 2019. So we're gonna catch her up. Okay, anything else that comes to mind? Long but
Unknown 5:20
just one more question. And this was quick Do you have any estimate or idea like how much equipment you have lost to to the police like to confiscating like if you were if you could put it on like a ballpark about how much money with all that stuff that they have taken away before. If you if you know if you don't it's fine. Just curious.
Unknown 5:47
Like, like the grown and all the stuff that we use, like whatever
Unknown 5:50
they have taken, like including food, all those things like but especially equipment, all that equipment that you have gotten confiscated that you haven't gotten back any like Do you have an estimate on how much or less the board
Unknown 6:03
like II glue thing? I could I could tell you some things like that, like five things that they took away if you want to give us a price range. There's an E glue thing, which Chester don't know why they put oh five by five bags of five labels of cheese. They put five by five by a factor of five pounds of cheese
Unknown 6:34
or at least the equivalent either like the grill you're on the
Unknown 6:38
container
Unknown 6:41
like the criminal 3000
Unknown 6:48
Yeah, so like the car the car impounded and like about 3000 of the equipment. That's at least $5,000 Plus that doesn't include the food that they have copies their shows like meats expensive so would you say like a few 100 bucks or like 1070 pounds
Unknown 7:05
of meat
Unknown 7:05
on those times? Yeah, and most times ground will move by will buy for a whole week for the whole weekend. We invest like around 18,400 to almost 2000 just interesting. In there. We'll Unknown 7:23
get that taken. Yeah. Okay, well, that's really upsetting. But I'm sure it's more certainty.
Unknown 7:34
One other question. Just like in terms of when you've gotten citations hasn't been clear like what
you're supposed to do after that what the next steps are
Unknown 7:54
not really them they just will tell just pay until you anything about like how to get your
equipment back. Or whatever to do. They were gonna give us back phone and say we can't get
back.
Unknown 8:06
They said that you can't get it back. There was straight up telling you like this is what they tell
you like what happens to it. But they did say specifically you're not getting this
Unknown 8:22
not just looking at the food for sure not back
Unknown 8:25
but the they said the equivalent to like you there's no way for you to get it back.
Unknown 8:29
Mom Yes.
Unknown 8:32
And they didn't say anything about like a way to like reduce the amount you have to pay or
anything like that.
Unknown 8:39
Pretty much now that would be like because like I said it was times it would be I was wondering
system after that day who do people say oh we just shoot you know this is cetacean just pay
combat. It's just gonna keep getting higher.
Unknown 8:54
Did you all pay any citation
Unknown 8:57
I pass I got a court date
Unknown 9:07
think that's all I can think about. We can always follow up a phone call or something here. If you
want to be added to the watsapp group. We can but I know your mom's there. But if it helps her
if it helps her both of you like report anything or ask anything that's what the group is for to
know your mom's pretty active to say hey, like because we were we want to train the vendors to
also say tell us cross streets. What exactly did you see in some try to submit a picture even if it's
blurry to tell people and so I'm wondering how much of that is working. So we definitely need to
keep talking to everyone else to see if anyone by chance gets to escape. Enforcement. That's the
morning but if there's anything else you'd like to share any other things we can
Unknown 9:58
or if you have any questions, we can take them
Transcribed by https://otter.ai
Vendor 2 (Xavier):
Unknown 0:00
I shared like I'm doing a little bit of research project, anything that I would do would be like completely anonymized. Nothing would be identifiable. It's just for our records.
Unknown 0:10
And it has you know, business doing at Pitzer like we're all just trying to learn from each other so that eventually we could grow capacities to have more interviews on our own. Because there's like probably another ad vendors we need to talk to. Some of them are talking on the phone and others. Anything else that and then sorry, how many police officers are coming or have you seen like a like that they all done a bunch would come at one point and then or is there at least one only showing up yet? For with the code enforcement or it's all code.
Unknown 0:45
So with the code enforcement, they're always accompanied by by PD. Always. No. More than one. They're always accompanied by PD. Wants to Yeah, so when I was I did I did get a parking. I was petty but but whatever I did, they did give me a parking ticket for parking on the street but he had valid reason because my even though my registration was current, but they haven't sent me the sticker. So he wrote me a give me a fix it ticket. But it was it was crazy because when he pulled up that night with the jaws when he pulled up I had my music playing and comes over and right away. He looks at me, he goes, turn that shit off. He started yelling at me like barking at me. And then I go, Oh, okay, got my phone. Started. Recording. Said hey guys, how are you funnel cake Fridays like, we got this asshole being an asshole right now. PD, what's your name? What's your badge number? And then right away. He just quite walked around, talk to his sergeant. And then he started running my plates. And he talks to his sergeant again and then he comes over and gives me a parking ticket. I didn't ask. But he changed his tune when when the cameras started rolling.
Unknown 2:14
And you've never been faced with the thing where they're like, whoa, what are you doing, sir? When you're reaching for your phone? They're never like, freaked out as you reach
Unknown 2:24
them anything nothing stupid like that yet.
Unknown 2:29
Anything else regarding police action, but but definitely more than one
Unknown 2:34
and they use a lot of scare tactics to with with with the vendors. Because at one point I was selling out of my house during the whole COVID and corn enforcement. I think came on a Wednesday I don't even sell on a Wednesday. I only sell Friday Saturdays and Sundays. And they came on a Wednesday and they started taking pictures of my house. They came talk to me they're like do you sell? Do you sell food here? And I go Yes, I said only to my, to my followers. It's a private event. And they're like, Well, you can't you can't sell food on the public. I go like I said it's a private event. And so for me to make it private. When I was selling I would put like balloons up and I'll put happy birthday and I just put them fake name and make it seem like a it's a private event. All my followers are my friends you know because I read somewhere where you could sell if it's a private event, you know, like if somebody contracts to get or to come and sell food for the party to private event. They can't say nothing. You just have to have catering license to or some known or not even that I read it somewhere. I was trying to look for it again. I couldn't find it but I read that it's okay. If somebody gets you for a party to sell food there, you
know, so, so I made it seem like you know, it's a party and then they never they never saw me physically working and selling food. And so they'll come around take pictures of my house. They they finally stopped but I had a canopy in front of my front of my garage. Take pictures, and when he was at the city was when we were taking pictures, taking pictures of what and then I gave and then I find out they're following me on my instagram. And the wife found out they're following my Instagram is that I started getting tickets, right citations and then I guess once he got to like, like 1000 Something I said oh hell no. So you know what I'm going to the health department now I went over there I spoke to the to the supervisors name was Gabriel. I go what's all these citations? I said, Do you guys see me physically selling and he's like yeah, as it will show me show me that evidence. So he gives me copies. pictures of me my garage is close. No activity, only my canopy and maybe like some chairs on the side of my side of my house like I don't I you know, and, and they're looking and then they get my Instagram, and they have a picture of my Instagram. And I'm like, Yeah, saying that you're open on these days. And I'm like, they're following me on my instagram. You know? And it's like, from what I heard is they can't be snooping around your Instagram and they they only have to catch you when you're in operation. So So I spoke to my goal. I said, Yeah, but I got these pictures. Doesn't doesn't show me actually working. I go something about my posts and you know stuff for my for my followers. I go to private event. And then he goes well, let me see what we could do. Let me because I think I spoke to him for about a good 45 minutes and he goes let me see what I could do on how I could reduce this fine or you know and so Supposedly he reduced it by $800. And he goes you're gonna get something in the mail and I never received anything and then being that I never received anything. I started getting phone calls. And it was from the city this lady that it's working that case that came to my house from start taking photos. She she had called me when I when we were in San Francisco. And she was like, I think I told you guys right. Then I got a call from the city. And I go she was like, Yeah, I know you're with the whole you know, street vendor in San Francisco. But can you call me when you have time? And you know,
Unknown 6:57
because she had seen
Unknown 6:58
your Instagram right? Yeah. Because you were telling me like the verify that they were following you right?
Unknown 7:03
Yeah, posting live. Yeah, I was supposed to live and so they knew that data points. Yeah, remember that? Right. I was like to say like, I know where you're at. Right? Right. And like, you know, like that's that's stupid like you following me and I'm Leila was gonna it was. I were bizard but then she had called me that she wanted me to delete my my Yelp account. And I go, I'm gonna do my Yelp account. She's like, Yeah, because it says that your, that it's active and it's, it's at that location. And I say yeah, but if you read it, it says that, you know, call us to see where we're at. But I'm not deleting my Yelp account because I can't change the idea is until I have a, an actual physical location for you. And then once I promote it on my Instagram, then Yelp looks at it, they verify it, then they're able to change my location. But just for me to say I want to deactivate my Yelp account, that's stupid, you know. I'm not doing that. I'm not doing that. I said I go I'm not if you're following me you then you'll see that I'm not selling out of my house. And then she says, she goes yeah, we see that you know that your mobile with your band. Okay. But she has she stopped finally calling you but it just stuff like that, you know, like they're, they're they're they're digging you like stupid.
Unknown 8:30
When you got those citations, like during COVID was that like 2020 ish
Unknown 8:38
thing I got it and
Unknown 8:41
we have copies
Unknown 8:42
somewhere. Yeah. Yeah, somewhere.
Unknown 8:48
I live in a sub county code enforcement or county.
Unknown 8:51
Yeah, land use and whatnot. And, and those were just mailed. They never like came and gave
them Yeah. Yeah. I think it was 2022 Oh, I know.
Unknown 9:08
You for sure. have copies of those
Unknown 9:10
yeah
Unknown 9:17
see here
Unknown 9:38
see it because when I did that, that's that's when I started working on my van and prepping it and
making it you know, more mobile, because I was like, You know what, screw that. They want us
to go back in the street will put back in the street
Unknown 10:03
and when you were on sidewalk Yeah, you were on sidewalks to beforehand. Eucalyptus and
that's when you guys decided to move after so all the enforcement there too, right?
Unknown 10:12
No, so we were there. And then when the whole COVID hit. That's when I think I didn't work for
like no, I went to I went to celebrities. And then yeah, and then from celebrities. That's when
COVID hit and I need to work for two weeks. That's a screw that I need to work. And that's
when I started working out
Unknown 10:57
anything that through that any skin I think I didn't work for like no I went to I went to celebrities.
And then yeah, and then from celebrities. That's when COVID head and I need work for two
weeks. That's a screw that I need to work and that's when I started working out of my garage
Unknown 11:31
but what they're doing is just I you know, like me and a couple people we don't even understand
like, like, instead of instead of trying to fix like the the they say that they're street vendors that
people are getting sick and some people are dying. And I said brilliant go crazy like that would
have went viral. And I would have heard about it. And I really tried to make a point I said you
know you're mostly you're more likely to get sick at a restaurant with an employee that's paid
minimum wage to doesn't care about his job. And you can't even see how they're preparing your
food and but instead of trying to fix like the homeless, that's, you know, you know, living in the
street deprecating everywhere. It's like that's more of a health issue, you know,
declaring an emergency or San Bernardino for homelessness. We just had some folks here we and we didn't we didn't call code enforcement because, you know, we're pretty open, right? Progressively as you want to call it that. And so they were here three, four days and we didn't we didn't take them out. And code enforcement will drive around here and do that but that's a whole nother thing. And we want to continue to have these meetings with the vendors. So that we can understand how to not like you know how to not throw those folks under the bus either. Right? Stick to what we're doing and to be able to say yeah, like you need to find things to make, you know, rent accessible and all these other things because that's why some sort of street vending or whatever the type two economic justice can be, but not throw under the bus the houseless folks and so I understand that that's that's an easy way to tell them but yeah, the city can definitely putting their energies to fighting crime Right, right. investigating cases that are that are having been solved, right. So what is preventing gooey can paint it as the cultural piece that it is and continue there. So just wanted to share that.

Unknown 13:41
But yeah, but it doesn't to me. It's like a lot of people that that depend on street vending to make income to pay their bills. And honestly, it's like, it's on me. Oh my god, I can't even work comfortable because I gotta be like, and then I gotta keep thinking like, Okay, if they were to show up, what am I going to say? You know, how am I going to, you know, talk to them in a way where they won't take your stuff away, you know, and because sometimes when they pulled up everybody calls me for some reason, you know, they're like, opera key come over here. They're taking our stuff and and I do go you know, and but we can't work comfortable, you know, and, and it's like, it's like, I think it was last week on Saturday. On Saturday or? No, it was Friday. It was Friday. Where next thing you know, medium tells me and Josie is that all the city's coming way into there with the county in there. They already hit Bloomington. And they're taking people's stuff away and I see medium, taking a lot of putting things in the truck and I'm like, I'm like because it takes a lot to prepare. Takes a lot to set up. And then when Winston, we use stuff like that. I just said, You know what, let me just turn off the lights close the door. I'm not gonna take nothing down, you know. And then so I was I was I think we were down for about an hour and I told me that my goal Hey, how can we go just go drive around, see what's going on and, and she went drone cabinets in the area. She says, I don't see anybody. And I go no, huh? And then I go, who said that? There I go. That the county was rolling. With code enforcement. I go code enforcement is the city of San Bernardino. I go they can't come. City of San Bernardino code enforcement cannot enter. Highland it has to be Highland.

Unknown 15:48
That's one thing that can read the answer to it but I understand the county has jurisdiction. All

Unknown 15:55
right. No, the County the county does. But the code enforcement from the city cannot. Yeah, because because when I went to the city, and I went to the county and I spoke to the county they're like, Oh no, that city because because the lady she gave me the map. She's like, where do you want to set up and and do this market night? And I gave her the address. She's like, Oh, no, that's County. I mean, know that city. And right and then so I went to the city and I spoke to them and and that's when I figured out like, oh, so the county health department is different from the city code enforcement. So that's why when we're set up, they do pass by but they don't stop. They don't see anything. They just keep driving because we do see the vans and they say oh, because that's that city that you know, this is the city of Highland Oh, there with the city of San Bernardino. Sounds like it has to be the city of Highland code enforcement.
Unknown 17:02
We're gonna set up but one last question will be you're talking about you know, vendors reaching out to you and
Unknown 17:09
at some, some of the vendors are are so financially you know, they're in a bind right now, you know, and it's it's crazy. You know, I mean, there's going to be more homeless people
Unknown 17:28
not to think about and feel and trust us,
Unknown 17:30
because I mean, me, I mean, it's like right now I'm doing I'm I'm networking I'm, I'm doing as much as I can because like my situation also as well is like my house. They started the foreclosure process. And so I'm I'm behind because I can't work comfortable. There's only a limited of promoting before I used to promote on all media sites. And people Whoo. And I saw the longest line. And right now it's like, I only promote on my Instagram. That's it. Just keep it small. I don't want to create more. And so so I got back I started you know making flyers passion for plumbing and, and I'm doing more you know, I just I just passed my my insurance to transact insurance. Through state of California. I just passed my exam. So I'm, I'm, I'm doing everything that I can do. To make money to provide you know, I mean, I mean, it's just crazy. If this wasn't a problem, I could work so comfortable, promote, not have fear, you know, probably doing everyday you know, like maybe like five days a week or something you know, but but I don't want to risk it.
Unknown 18:54
But, but that's a lot of what you said, I'll just finish with this that we that we will have to do these trainings and for folks to know like, like the attorney was saying like, and other experts have said like, what can you do as barriers but it's gonna be more related to the sidewalk. The last piece is really hard to fight right now. I don't know what the solution is going to be about that last but folks have been looking into things. So then like, the sidewalk, right, I think if you ever if we can define that we can probably start. I think done we'll go back to the side and try to reduce here the space that you're using you can especially because that'll be less of an alert because I think code enforcement PD, the average Joe half are confused about the sidewalk, the county if they were looking to the county stuff, and they look at stuff they're gonna they're gonna find out Yeah, you do these permits or whatever. But if we can read like when time like I said, I think two weeks ago when when time maybe reducing the amount of space that you'll use in the setup on a sidewalk, you can find by the sidewalk more than than the lot and then people will create trainings or we can roleplay and things like definitely also bend lean on literature that they do, but I know it can be overwhelming. So folks also know what barriers to put when they come to them. And they're right now no misdemeanors should be given but we're also tracking and see if any of that's coming about. But as of right now, it seems like they're resorting to these administrative citations. And they're going to probably continue to tactics of, of traffic. To see how everything's working and figure out what can we what can we offer for the shooting community? Because I know that the laws passed, but now we're waiting on implementation, working towards implementation and waiting on some things. To see which card is what card design is gonna really help you all to really sell on the sidewalk right. Or Romo roam around or the station

Unknown 20:54
and who's in charge of designing the carts of different manufacturers,
Unknown 20:57
right last week we had revolution carts here who allowed to order food items tacos like a nice the hotdogs or a few a few of the foolish things that can be steamed. But then there's gonna be other folks like a la street vendor campaign is was already working on a car design before though this law passed. And so when that if that car design gets gets my understanding, last I checked is that if that card design gets approved, they want to make sure that the state approves it, they put a stamp of approval state why? And then just other people that are in that engine business game. They're working, the demand is coming right? So different people I think are figuring out what to design so that you can have some of these really cultural foods that are a little bit more complex that can stay on a small cart, a small part of your canopies, no lights, very few lights, maybe no music, no, but a small compact, what they call the CMF logo stands for Global food operations back but the dream that vendors have had for years right going back to 20 years of being able to use public space with a sidewalk for now and then we'll see what the horizon bringing what's in the horizon to to fight for more, right? But right now it's the sidewalk
Unknown 22:12
what's what's the issue with the lights?
Unknown 22:15
I don't know if it's just I mean, you'll have you'll be able to have like a light or whatever but not like a full string of lights. You won't have a canopy as I'm saying the canopies are probably going to be hard to because you have to keep the 36 inch at a right speed for you like I think with Marina, we landed on 48 inches and we could go back to that ordinance to fight for that. So I guess that leads to my next question. I know you've been helping us to public comment at the city you were there since 2019 When we started and it's been a whole journey right and and a lot of things that we still need to do but would you be interested in keeping supporting when you can to share you and your voice to be able to keep advocating for this because there's a lot of there's like 12 things we could do. And we're going to decide what are the two or three things we can do with you on so that's we're interviewing everyone enough so that everyone become gets back on the same page, and they understand why we're doing this why we're going here. And also not Bernie each other out. Right, right. We can we can actually continue to win things right. But we're not going to see the full effect of SB 972 until like about two years from now, right? But things are gradually changing. And that's because y'all were there since you know years ago and sometimes changes.
Unknown 23:27
So the state has to approve the cart. No state has a proven card. And if I designed a special cart for my needs, I would get approved by the State
Unknown 23:41
tomorrow so the carts are going to be approved. County, county Wise County Why not not state by county by county or state with so many to state the state though we should follow. State law basically gave permission for counties to approve a car definitely sold in America. But any part that is designed for that county say no, we don't like so you can. It's expensive to create those parts but he has been working on one for a year. And the company they develop is Tony they go to a position where you tell me they're going to tell him I tell him I'll just allow for that to be possible. And allow me to say like all allowed it allows the opportunity to work a part to be mass produced. So that a lot of
Unknown 24:57
and then you could sell that car to others. Yeah, if you want to get a car approved by the county, then you would have to talk to the county say I want to get this card approved. These days and I want it to be approved so that in silico people I don't know what the process looks like. But you can if you invest in one in you know in designing one and it'll be a back and forth between you and the county on like whether they like it or not.

Unknown 25:29
County has new staff too, so we can text you the the specific people Yeah, and then the presentation that they did kind of sucks. Pretty much sucks but on there there's

Unknown 25:48
a follow the kind of cards that they won and designing it

Unknown 25:55
you would have to get work with the blueprints first. Yeah, you will have to work with the manufacturer. So if you want to do that, you can go to the county and talk to someone say I want to I want to build a car for the purposes of my business. And then they will tell you that will give you guidelines of like this is what your current dimensions can be based on where you want to sell. So if you tell them I want to follow the sidewalk dimensions Yeah. Tell them like I made politics training up higher. And I want to go on the sidewalk in depth will give you the dimensions that your dimensions and the things that you need. So you'll need like Washington

Unknown 26:40
DC, we don't need a handwashed if all you have to do is brings on extra utensils.

Unknown 26:46
Depends on where you are. I don't know about

Unknown 26:48
price quote. I can't remember Yeah, maybe for that you won't but it's just an example. But it also depends where yourself because if you saw the tip then for example, you won't you can you can get away which is utensils, and you don't have to buy a seat because you can share with other folks, right but if you're on the streets, so remember to think about it this way. The more alone you are, the more individualized your vending is, the more requirements you're going to have. The more high risk your foods are, the more requirements you're going to have. This is you're not you don't have raw meat. You don't need a lot of you don't have a lot of requirements as far as like the flu temperature and things like that because there's no hazardous food right flour, water oil, but you will need things like something to ensure that you're not going to cause a fire something to ensure that the cows are going to be clean because even though you're frying things you kind of still need to be write write something to ensure that you can dispose so a place that you're gonna have to demonstrate like once I finish with this oil, where am I going to dump it like you have to have all those things. So it's a lot more difficult than just saying like, here's a card that works because a lot of folks that's what they end up doing like Hey, I got this card and it works like it does work. It serves a purpose but to the county it doesn't serve the purpose because it is a lot more than just than just that. So that's why it's so difficult like the as it is right now. If you want us as it is right now before the law passed, you have to have any new or individualized process. You can be selling the same thing that the person needs to be selling but both of you need to have a set of blueprints and get him approved individually. It could even probably be the same cart but you both need to go through the process together. So what the Lord did is that it allows for one card to be approved. And if it's approved in the county to sell two roles, and then you decide, okay, well, I'm gonna sell this to all that all the Turo vendors. There's a process where the county would allow it to be mass produced, and then you could sell that to them. But
yeah, it's a lot of work. I mean, the revolution card folks, it took them years to develop this card because if the back and forth of like, okay, but what did they still did and they're gonna need this like, even though they're the one that came into the presentation, they were talking about additional things that they're there they're working on on bringing in like accessories. if you will. So like a little hand washing thing that you can attach to the top. And that way you have access to a hand washing sink, clean water soap, and you can now sell now you can prepare like certain things on the cart. So there's it's just it's you know, it's I'm not justifying it, it's dumb. It's very complicated and complex, and it's done that like that for a reason. But you have the capital to invest in a car and you want to continue selling like on the sidewalk and you in you and you know that that's your plan. You have the capital to invest in a car. You can go to the county and ask like, what do I need to do if I want to design a car for this? And they'll give you that consultation one on one. But it's you know, you have to pay a process and things like that you have to go through the process and it involves paying for that process of like consulting and things like that. And then yeah, you need to have some some manufacturer and you will need to do that research on your own. Because we don't have any any. We don't have any like people that we know that are manufacturers but I'm sure that you could

Unknown 0:00 (Add 30 min to this time stamp)

No, if you want to draw it on a piece of paper, we just want to know where everything's going to be at. Yeah. And I said, Oh, that's

Unknown 0:04

like the initial one though, because I know that when I have asked to, they want it to be blueprints, they want it to be like, they want it to come from. They want it to have the materials that are approved. They want it to come from an approved manufacturer, basically. I don't know if you can, I can't tell you yes or no, but I'm thinking if you have the skills to make it and you elect you said that you can just draw it out and tell them maybe you can because you have the skills like if you know a welder and everything maybe you can build it on your own right again, you have to consult with them one on one, so that you can know what just be straight out like look, I have these skills, I can well I can do this I can do that. Just you know what do I need if I want to make the cart? Is that possible? If they say yes cool, then What materials do I need? Right? And then you just have to go with with that, like, What materials do I need? If I'm going to be selling this board, and this is the place I'm going to be selling it right? And then you go from there, but honestly, we haven't gone through that process at all. So we don't know You know, we also don't know any vendor that has gone through that process, either. Because for example, you can get you can see a food truck right anywhere and you you won't know where it came from. But if you have a food truck that comes from Mexico, for example, because you bought it there for cheaper. You bring it over here. Just because it's a food truck doesn't mean that is going to be approved because as it turns out, the way that they build them in Mexico is not the same way they build them here right and so once they see the food truck, everything can look good, but then don't look at the electrical wiring and the plumbing. And even though it works fine. If it's not the way that the county here wants it. They'll say no even though it works fine. So yeah, they're very nitpicky with things. So I would just say before, like, you invest in anything, just make sure that that you, you talk to them. And if you're interested in making a model that you can mass produce, I would always start talking to them now because it's gonna take a while, right? I think people read everything native like before, I know this is a business opportunity for a lot of folks

Unknown 2:12
because I remember when when I was going to design my I spoke to the lady and I asked her a lot of questions and she was like, Yeah, this is my email if you have any questions or you call me durag but yeah, all you have to do is just, you know, on a piece of paper, just write out the dimensions, and we'll get it approved. I'm like

Unknown 2:31
yeah, so that's what I'm saying. Like you got to talk to them. And

Unknown 2:34
so if I design a card with you know, by design a card on the GID card with you know, I call it well can I do this? Yeah, you could do that. Yeah. Can I, you know, if I, if I say you know, and I designed something for me to use and maybe I'll make one for the street vendors, because I know the stuff they need. But the only the only issue is why no no canopies. That doesn't make any sense. Because it's out in the open.

Unknown 3:01
You know that there's going to be like a restriction of some sort like the curly has an umbrella. But that cannot be it's going to matter. Depending on how much I imagine no canopy because most sidewalks are too small so that Ada you're not going to fit any regulations. Look at the big sidewalks where are they usually downtown and the county the work people are gonna rotate probably the use of the sidewalk for example your hours are usually evening right? But if one of us here wants to work in the day then we just rotate the sidewalk because at the city will tell them I'm gonna work from these hours on the streets. I'm gonna rotate these streets and then that's how they'll know that you are permitted to also be there. There's gonna be a whole process for you to tell them I'm here at these hours these days. So then like if you only use them at night, cool. I'm gonna use it during the day. And we can use those big sidewalks if you really want the canopy for example. By that I

Unknown 3:51
think that it also has to do with the fact that it's supposed to be a mobile unit right?

Unknown 3:56
So then the white white station with a little more with a carry through right. And then then I'll talk to the where I need to talk to but I can even, you know, have something that comes up like this right which stands you know, like hydraulics is

Unknown 4:15
something that is easy that is mobile. Right, right.

Unknown 4:17
Like I could put up like a transformer you know,

Unknown 4:21
like, they put on the umbrellas on the cart like the revolution cart has the umbrellas and they're easily like, right. So yeah, it's the whole point that you because you're mobile or even if you're stationary, like you're supposed to be able to pick up and go right, right.

Unknown 4:36
There's something there about it in Palm Springs or testing the idea of a 10 by 10 canopy. And right now the city manager in them haven't totally pushed back on that. They were trying to just allow an eight by eight and even that I thought was too big, but a 10 by 10 that they're supposedly saying yes. And by mid April or late April, we're going to know if that ordinance passes. And if that does and we're going to come back to San Marino and say change these 20 things because Palm Springs just did it. Go back and change it and now we have a better
Council. I know they suck, but we've been talking to them privately and I think we can convince four or five volts
Unknown 5:07
counsel here in San Bernardino, Councilmember I know they they're still they're still the same people know the bar.
Unknown 5:13
Well, we can I think we can convince them now based on our bar,
Unknown 5:16
oh, she's a hypocrite, to face
Unknown 5:19
to talk to. You get on Sanchez and they're coming because now they feel lonely because they don't have fucking value.
Unknown 5:26
So you know, with a mayor changing
Unknown 5:29
Sandra, she's a come to my funnel cake anywhere and she's following me. Hey, I want to talk to me and, and you know,
Unknown 5:36
and she she won't just be the original one.
Unknown 5:39
We'll just be talking right talking. And then I had I had sent her a message on on, on on Messenger you know, just a simple question. I say I have a question for you. Maybe you can help me answer it and, and then she replies back. All professional you have to go to the to the to my email regarding this this. I say hey, I'm just asking about something that you like the way she came at me. I was like, Nah, I'm good. I'm good. Like, before she has talked to me call me
Unknown 6:14
and yeah, we're pushing. We're gonna have to push her more we pushed her publicly in those meetings to call her out to but she'll like look at us and since then, just smirk or show look like she's attentive. So we need to revisit her and see what she's really thinking. If not, then we already have we're looking at other four or five people right because you got Kimberly Calvin, Ben Ray and also Damon Alexander, who's a little weird buddies, sometimes both with Kim and Ben as like a voting bloc. They also come from like different different backgrounds, but almost similar backgrounds. And then it's interesting, the black city council members are supporting more than the Latino folks. So we've used some of that against Figueroa and Teddy to to see like where are you at? Right to kind of use that thing but also to say like, you know, you know, this is not bad, like, you know, if people are just trying to work you know, that this can coexist with brick and mortar and so they're, they're starting to understand, okay, let's let's keep talking to keep educating me and so we can have you go in there with us sometimes be the EBS zoom or in person to say, hey, like this is what we do. And they're gonna keep feeling the pressure, right?
Yeah. But
Unknown 7:22
I don't understand. Why is La different.
Unknown 7:27
I mean, because they've been organizing longer but they also they also have to abide by you need to help permit they have and so what we've noticed is if there's like a highland Street, because they're so organized, they know how to push back at the police. We don't we don't we have to
verify because even the police and coastal follow them. But if police is not involved is because they have this call thing called Bureau street services that vscc Or something there they were a department created when street vending got legalized in industry in the San Bernardino, I mean, la in 2018. So that Bureau is the one that controls the street in the code and then code enforcement as well sometimes, but but there's no there's no there's a lot of special things about LA but again, I've been organizing for 10 years. That's our goal here to like, three four years in but you know, They've analyzed some of the stuff we've done and they're like keep organizing keep having vendors come together in different spaces are all together so that you guys get trained on like how to push back but if that doesn't work it again remember their politics are more progressive are folks here to vote that changed, but like to convince them to also get the special vending districts like if Highland becomes an area of its kind, it's kind of hard, but if it's not highlighted, it's another area where we're going to be able to have vendors congregate and call it a special vending district now
Unknown 8:42
know how come all the vendors don't like that day I came for that meeting. There are not a lot of interest here.
Unknown 8:52
I know 19 or 15 on Zoom and I don't know how many were here 15 It takes more legwork. We need some help calling people to so that's what was gonna be my next question. If you can help call some of these folks in like I know Miriam does right Marian has always awaited you you
Unknown 9:06
guys can organize some type of like Union like a vendor union. Like saying like like, if you're part of the Union, then we'll support will help you in any way by and then if you're not part of it, sorry, you're on your own. And then this way
Unknown 9:27
we will have something we want you all to vote within. We're running around you're here and then and we're not because
Unknown 9:33
you have experience with us as a union member. So you understand what what the benefits are of a union. You understand what what it takes to be part of a union what in what the benefits are when you don't but think about if you weren't, you know, somebody who hasn't been part of a union doesn't know what the benefits are. And then so there's a lot that goes into it, but also you gotta also think about the fact that not only is enough familiar to folks that are that are working in a street vendors, there's a lot of different perspectives on unions. I know you know, growing up in Mexico for example, a union wasn't wasn't necessarily a respected it's, it's there's a lot of places where there's more like the problem, the criminal organization with the permission and so, there's a lot that goes into why people are not jumping at the idea. Those are some of my observations, but I think the primary thing is, is the fact that yeah, people people don't are not buying into the idea of people power because the city has done the most to divide and conquer. So it's really hard to get a group of people to come together when when they're living day by day. Alright, so I think that it would be a lovely idea. You and I have talked about this round, I dream to have some sort of organized Union, but it takes a lot of legwork to get there, you know to start
Unknown 11:03
right now again, yeah, and Love you folks. And talk to you like this for 30 minutes, maybe an hour. But we have like 80 and more vendors to talk to and keep and keep doing that. We're gonna
split. So like I said, we're all just kind of learning so she gets more in tune. All goes missing right now she's gone for another three weeks. So then when we have them and then we'll train other people and then train vendors. to also be able to talk to folks like it took us a little bit more to also tell medium and make you still doesn't really believe I was on there. Remember, I was alone for like two three years. So it was hard to like you know, get Yeah, but but we're gonna make it more systematic like a union work. So that we can build this this urgency.

Unknown 11:44

Yeah, and I mean, to be honest, like, it's not that. I love it. I love you in your work. I've worked with unions before I see the power that you can garnish with the common united front and all that but it does take a lot of work to get to put that together. And it takes time more than anything. Like the word not the problem. It's the time Right, right. We have to we have to find a common goal with all the vendors and that's why we're doing all these things to like what are you interested in if your goal is like this niche industry bending is getting cars. You like creating cards, like mass producing cards that that fit everybody's needs. If that's your goal, and people buy into that goal, for example, then we can all be united to work towards that goal. But right now, there's a lot of needs and a lot of different goals. And so we're trying to find which one's the one that's going to unify the group that that's going to allow us to really harness the that power of a group. So as far as you as far as you're concerned, you know, as far as I'm concerned with you, you have this knowledge you have this experience, which is great. So, if I could ask for anything is that you talk to the folks that are, you know, talking to the vendors, let them know, like, the you know, what it's like to be part of the game, you know, like, you know, you know, you could Woodward's we've talked about this, like, if you talk to media, the way you talk to media, right, like, like, you know, like, we should do this. We should do that, like, talk to other folks. You know, let them know like I know what it's like to be part of a union. And just the benefits that I've seen being been an organized group. What do you think about coming to these meetings, you know, and let's talk about solutions. So if there's any way to get this to happen is by with people to share their experiences and come together for that. Message. So if I could ask for anything is you know what I asked you before, like, talk to people let them know like I'm part of a union. This is the kind of experience I've had these are the benefits of it like, like medium said in that in the last few years. She's like, why are people not showing up? We got to unite. We got to be together. So it takes it takes a lot of that like word of mouth to to hopefully get people excited to work together. Because we're organizers, we're not vendors. And so when I speak to a vendor, I'm speaking from an organizing perspective, like what do I know about vending I'm not surviving on vending. So it's very powerful when someone like you that's a vendor and has experienced in organize you with the union or be part of a union. It's so it's very powerful to be able to share that with other vendors because you understand where they're coming from. And you can create the solutions alongside so I think that that's a goal but we're far from it. And I think it just takes this legwork right now to start getting people to see are people interested in this kind of thing. Cool, let's work towards it.

Unknown 14:30

And even then we'll see like, okay, of course you guys are the experts with the solutions, but then for us to support it. We're gonna have to analyze what's possible, and the kind of people stick with us for a year, two years, six months, three months, like,

Unknown 14:43
how hard would it be for the code enforcement to for the code enforcement to stay away from the street vendors and say, Hey, being that the all the street vendors are part of the Union, we police ourselves, we make sure that so this way, they they they step out of the way
Unknown 15:06
Yeah, and another thing that I want to be hard.
Unknown 15:10
Yes, code enforcement has been assigned to to do this. As soon as we do a Bureau of street services. They're like they're pretty much the same thing still. So it has to be code. And so what we're what we're saying about that right now, though, is give us a year give us a year to stop enforcement so that the cart the other carts can develop and leave people alone. And if we leave you alone, we're trying to negotiate the city the cities by and say well then don't do this. Don't do that. Stay on the sidewalk that Okay, so we're gonna have to get into negotiating table. But Jessica,
Unknown 15:41
I was gonna say I mean, in order to be an effective group and an organized group, you don't have to have a union representation. You can still be a very organized, you can still be an informal, union nice girl. We can you know, we we don't have to have a group that is representative by an established union to be an organized group it can get to the but I think we start by creating that union mentality, that group mentality with a group with with a vendor sorry, so you know, we don't have we don't have to jump in necessarily to be recognized as a union per se, immediately, but there are groups of vendors that are like Nellie in Fresno. These are groups of people that are that are very much unionized, like they're operating as a collective, with a collective goal. And they're not necessarily represented by like SEIU, for example, or anybody authority established union organization, but they're, but they're still very effective because they're all organizing with a group. So you know, we don't have to say just because a union is not possible right now, nothing is we're going to porn we have to we have to start working towards
Unknown 16:52
if the city if the city council people if if they agree, Muslim genres. I'm just thinking if they agree, and they vote and say okay, well before before the code enforcement gets involved, the court enforcement will work. to whoever's in charge, whoever's running the street vendors, the code enforcement will tell us before the start going confiscating but over there running by us, and then there'll be us that has to please ourselves or that one person. Hey, you got to be like this. Hey, you have this is the city approves that, then that gives us the kind of like the power right? So they can just go in so in order to because I'm thinking because like, like I'm thinking of how the DMV was formed. See, the DMV was, it's like, you know what, I found out that it's not even a government bill. It's it's, it's his own. It's his own business. It doesn't even belong. It's like its own department. It's his own department. You know, the DMV, it's not it's not even a government thing. You know, but they, they did it under they did it for so long that it became now you got to have a driver's license. Now you got to do this now. You got to have insurance, you know, but it says it's not even part of the government, but they've been so long that they're working under, you know, they go to the DMV now he doesn't go to
Unknown 18:12
the DMV provides a service that benefits the government and people so

Unknown 18:16
I'm thinking like eventually this will be like that type of service. You'll be doing long enough. And and over the years we would talk to during the charge of the street vendors. Yeah. Well, we don't like something we'll talk to the main representative or somebody you know, yeah, unknown. 18:31 there could be something like that built in within the city where there's a community liaison or some kind of role or various ones that that would probably be street vendors. Right. One day, but but for now, it could be like, you know, culturally sensitive staff and people who know public or private education, so I know we asked for that since 2019, and I can't remember if they wrote it in because I've in now you see they did it because the staff of Business Services at the city alone doesn't know what they're doing half the time and and but they've changed a little bit like they they answer the phone for us sometimes and whatnot, and we need to keep testing. So yeah, they need more like better people at City Hall. And then on top of that, if you don't build it within that city space, you can probably do something to that extent that's really ideal. So we'd have to study how that works but right now at least organize yourselves to tell them enters a change up your your setup like this. That's a buy or sell time. One, to not get complaints, right and number two, like let's have each corner every lot every sidewalk, so organized, that we know how to push back as far as we can with the city to avoid certain citations, but not to say that we're gonna avoid them because sometimes they're gonna come down and all these things. He's one of the things that we are testing in Palm Springs tested back over here and the one that LA has tested, tested back over here, so that we win these demands through papers because paper was gonna really make it Yeah, so all these things will work documenting them and we're gonna see where we're what our people because we will talk about the same thing in different ways. Even our staff over here and so like to analyze all of that they see, but we've already analyzed it so much in three years, that we know that almost three solutions we could start off with and continue with and still lean on state law. Because now the state law has put us five, five times better, in a better position. Five steps forward. It's just the implementation. That's that's the line. Unknown 20:26 Okay. My last question. How do you bring that to the table? This idea, yeah, like how do I bring it? How do I know not not not pitch it but how what's the process for city council to hear it and the vote on it and pass it? Unknown 20:43 Great question. It's a long it's a long roll. I Unknown 20:46 just can't take it I just can't read. Unknown 20:48 Research doesn't exist anywhere else, right? Unknown 20:50 If it doesn't, if it doesn't exist, if it exists because of somebody's idea. It doesn't have to be Unknown 20:55 well, we can we can lean on some of those ideas, but to see because they're gonna like they like research based ideas first, and then other new ones. Like the Unknown 21:06 new one. I don't think they do. I don't think I don't think art comes when people don't do it does any research. No, no. Unknown 21:13
We're not gonna spend money on it. We push the we push the city government to say city manager, do your homework city council, do your part City Economic Development, do your part. So we have like that's what organized power does, like you have to push them to do it and then we end there's so much more we gotta tell you one day, pretty soon hopefully in two weeks, we're gonna get the vendors together. Because there's all this stuff that because even though we look like we've lost, the city has invested economic development projects that tie into what street vending is, and they haven't put iCj fully at the table. We're gonna fight to get at the table with you guys last No, no, no, like, it looks like
Unknown 21:54
we have lost it looks like we haven't made a lot
Unknown 21:56
of people good. We have lost depending on who you ask. But we haven't obviously, we want to state to state laws already. But like we do, sometimes people think we're losing right? The vendors or vendors might lose. But that's why I'm telling you got to talk to at more vendors to figure out hey, do you know what we've accomplished? So it's like, it sucks because yeah, they're getting hit every day. People are crying, they're losing their, their their, you know, their bills, and they're struggling. And so people are like, what's one if you guys are here, we've been there. We've been there. And what have you actually want? Well, guess what we're like being considered we're gonna look to be considered to be part of the economic justice plan in the city. And we're trying to get ourselves in there so that you guys have a location to meet up in life. It's not here, right? Because we're only here for three years and we don't know where we're gonna go next. We can always use our funding right? And so like if the city builds it, they're gonna protect the vendors more. So it seems like a dream but a dream that's, that's closer to have a center to have more. What is it see the money? Yeah, to have these community liaisons that can coach you guys on permits, because it's so hard to navigate even for an attorney to navigate the permit process right now. And all these things, but my point is that idea, we don't know. We got to start asking we could start asking them these meetings with when we go back to figure it on Teddy and asked, hey, what if it what would it look like to do this right? Or does have a lay kind of accomplish that it's not on paper, but they kind of have accomplished that where they have 14 council members out of the 14 eight or more always hit up post Igh vendor campaign and they're like, Hey, this is coming up on the on the on the books or this is coming up on the agenda. What do you guys think? Or hey, what are you guys thinking about this? So if there's something similar when taking notes about it, then we'll we'll see if that if we can make it and if not propose it as no idea and see if it's possible. Okay. So let's similar to it because again, you're never gonna get it.
So government Right, right. So,
Unknown 23:51
so I can bring it up, or Yes,
Unknown 23:53
yes. Yeah, that's how you write it up. We were someone's writing but I can go and say you know, but come together before
Unknown 24:00
we formed an organization for street vendors that we police ourselves on what we could do and what what we're allowed what we're not allowed in
Unknown 24:08
the education framework that sounded to me like the education framework that led us we'll send you to see if you're Yeah.
Unknown 24:15
Because I'm thinking like So this week, code enforcement just doesn't start getting people's stuff and harassing people. It comes to the main representative that that's the organizer of all the street vendors. They talk to them. Look, we noticed that there's some street vendors over here that's a dangerous Okay, when we go there talk to them. Hey, guys, you know, you get the odd just move this way if exist, for example, so called enforced
Unknown 24:41
chairs, most likely,
Unknown 24:43
right? Like no restaurant setups is gonna be like, there's gonna be a lot it's gonna be a compromising process. But the most important thing is that if you're gonna write this idea up and you're gonna want to present it
Unknown 24:52
connected torium that we've been writing for since November when you went back to us I think
Unknown 24:57
the most important thing will be that you have the buy in from other vendors. Because if you come in with the idea
Unknown 25:02
who says about the chairs, so who says is like let's say, that's all about you. So so so if let's say for example, for example, if the code enforcement says, You know what, fine, we'll allow one table chair. Is that Is that okay? Depends
Unknown 25:20
on when you saw a table and chair for like whole fruits, whole fruits and whole foods, and they land like one table and one canopy for a food truck. That's a whole nuther ballgame. That's not sidewalk vending, but for our vendors that already has a cart. You're not going to be able to set up a table there's no table operation, you're gonna have to have a CFO and a CFO. Is the cart
Unknown 25:44
the mobile food okay, it's supposed to be up to go right assist as a street vendor at your food has to go. You can either standing up if you want, like an adult there but you're not. You're not You're not going to be allowed to have a seating area for your consumer, right. But again, like if that's the idea, like I would jot it down some sort of outline, and then talk to other vendors, see if they would buy in, if you can get a group of like 10 vendors are like we want to do this stuff and identify that corner and write down the the, you know, write down though, like this is what we're willing to do if working for a quarter. Forsman is working with us. There's 10 of us that are that are that want to set up here. Then we can look into how we can present that idea to the city council. And of course you can, whether it's Windows, whether it's without us, like you, you have that right as a resident of the county, right. But the most important thing that they're going to want to know is does this benefit the public? And does this benefit more than just one person? Is it just for self interest or is it for the benefit of a group of people? So instead, and then you're gonna want to have you're gonna have to talk to the council person that represents that area, code enforcement meetings, you're gonna have to get buy in from a lot of different departments so that it does take a process. I'm not saying it's impossible, but you do first of all have to have that buy in from other folks that are going to be willing to do to try this out with you in a specific place, and then as an organized again, as an organized group. The more people that buy into it, the more people that can come in, show up and then give comment, I support this idea. I support this idea because rest assured that there's gonna people are gonna be like, I don't support this idea. And we
already know that we're walking into a council that's not going to be very supportive. So we got to convince so to convince them, you need people to show up and say, I support this idea. Because on every council, because you're gonna have to concern me, you're gonna have to, like show them like, why is this idea a good idea? What benefits what it does for the CD, what it does for the public, what it does for the vendors, and how that all works together for a better situation. But again, like the most important thing is that you're gonna have to have buy in from the vendor and you talk to them

Unknown 27:53

separately to the city council, you can only talk to two at at the same time. So if we were in this meeting here, this whole room, you can only invite two at a time you have to follow Brown Act rules. So you can meet two at a time but we tend to not when we started testing it we only started talking to each council member one on one and from 2019 Teddy Sanchez was the first one to be at that meeting. That said here I'm here to listen, I'm here to take fresh ideas. So we're reminding him of like you were the first one there and then us he started getting complaints and so he's also hearing ideas from all sorts of sides and he asked to hear the vendor voice consistently. And with research and with vendor and with people power, and so much more. So the actual timeline of how to convince City Council we haven't designed we haven't like written it out, but there's also other like YouTube channels that show like all the different committees they could go into depending on how the city is going to take it. Sometimes you could skip committees, but it is talking to the council member first people that are affected by it. And then like these, these power players that are many in the city or the county. So yeah, that's one idea that I think once I'll send you something that you can read, it's easy to page thing that's not so that's basically capsuled lating, those ideas that LA has also thought about right? And so there's probably something there that you're thinking of so that we don't reinvent it, and we remind the city pass a moratorium, do this education first thing and then, you know, enforcement can kick off whenever it is and even then people are saying how do we reduce enforcement one day but we're still super far from from that because it's we were fighting for this cart for the sidewalk all these years. But you know, more than three years that we've been in LA has been fighting 1015 years, and so they're finally at the ideal place. It there's still Weather permitting you to get you compensated kitchen, depending on what you sell, and health permits and stuff, but it's about being able to vent on the sidewalk or before you couldn't and now once the cards come in and people understand the permit process, like maybe within a year, or even right now with these Dhamaaal cards that they invented we're gonna start seeing some cards out there. And so we're at a better place than we were before. And I think the state campaign is going to talk to everyone from all the way from the Coachella Valley all the way up to Sacramento to say, Okay, this is how is this working? If it's not working? What do we do again in two years or in a year? To change it again, but you don't know if that's really gonna happen.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai
Appendix D, Field Notes

Initial Meetings
1/30-2/2/2023

Description: 1/30: first meeting in San Bernardino with Olga and Jessica. Also my first time being in San Bernardino. Discussed CASA program and fellow responsibilities, rundown of IC4IJ and street vendor advocacy. Jessica and Olga explained SB 946 and 972, as well as street vendor culture. Decided that I will be creating an organizational system for citations received. 1/31 and 2/1: read through materials, articles about bills and bills themselves. Remote. 2/2: Met on Zoom with Jessica and Olga to discuss readings. Questions came up about criminal v. administrative fines, and which agency is authorized to cite for which violations.

Reflections: Feeling inspired! Tried to keep my desires/hopes for specific projects as broad as possible to best serve IC4IJ’s needs, but I think they are aligning well. Feeling a little apprehensive given Jessica’s comment about San Bernardino not being as safe even compared to what she knows in Ontario, but also motivated to get to know a new area. Also thinking about how agencies like code enforcement can have positive and negative impacts in different areas (helpful with enforcing building codes to keep tenants safe but also risk eviction, helpful for maintaining public health but also targeting vendors)

Emerging Questions: What different areas are these citations coming from? How much variance is there? What will be the best way to organize this qualitative data? I am feeling like I need to look into models for this.

Future action:
- Readings Jessica and Olga sent
- First glance at citations to get a sense of how to organize
- Research into guidelines about agencies’ jurisdiction for citations

Research on Websites
2/11/2023

Description: Begin research into different agencies’ jurisdiction: looked into San Bernardino’s city municipal code

Reflections: First time back to this work after being sick with COVID, it has been helpful to look over meeting notes and remind myself how/what I was thinking about citations and the questions I had. I am feeling frustrated and pessimistic that this information will be easily accessible.

Emerging Questions: Where is the best place to find who has authority over what citation? Why is this not centralized?
2/12/2023
Description: continued research on San Bernardino city website, with code enforcement page sending me back into the municipal code.
Reflections: Why is this law so contradictory? Am I interpreting it correctly? I am hoping that Jessica and Olga will be able to clarify things for me. I am also recognizing and drawing on a lot of what the lawyers I worked with over the summer said and how they thought about the law and legal problems—cool to notice myself approach things in similar ways.
Emerging Questions:
From my notes:
  - Screenshot of code enforcement says criminal violations, seems out of date? But then that sent me back to the municipal code where I found another section on “transient merchants/vendors” that prohibits them and makes a violation of that section a misdemeanor
    - Contradictory sections: are they about two separate things that I’m not understanding? Does SB 946 automatically replace them? Does this section need to be repealed?
  - This section includes info about seizing goods and hearings, why doesn’t the part around SB 946? Because it should only be administrative fines? Are administrative fines different than administrative citations? “Administrative citation imposing fines and penalties”
  - Guidelines around giving citation, what needs to be included and how it needs to be delivered: I wonder if these are being followed, or if that could be legal grounds to dismiss case
  - Paying fine/not requesting hearing means person gives up right to hearing and potentially loses stuff automatically?
    - Only things that should be seized are materials to be sold, not entire setup
  - Section that outlines who is allowed to arrest/cite, Chapter 9.90: City police officers (arrest and notice)
    - Development services staff (issue notice)
    - City Engineer staff (issue notice)
    - City attorney staff (arrest and issue notice)
    - Code compliance staff (issue notice)
    - All can seize items offered for sale
Future action: Feeling like I need to pause and touch base with Jessica and Olga to see if I’m on the right track before continuing, also potentially inspiring some policy advocacy pathways.
Reflections Code Enforcement Meeting 2/28/2023

- Lots of sheriffs with guns
  - Clear sense of needing to be “protected”
- Request for someone to stay in back to watch staff’s stuff
  - As if it was a risky environment—very well kept building, no one else was there besides code enforcement officers and vendors
  - Subtle criminalization, threat construction
- TONS of chairs
  - Unfortunately not all filled :/
  - Not as much turnout from vendors as hoped
- Sides chosen with chairs on either side of the aisle
  - Us vs them
- Content wise: really vague answers to questions we asked
- Helpful for vendors to talk with people directly in code enforcement, put faces to names and know who to ask for in office
  - Past hold-ups at front desk, receptionist power
- Vendors left more optimistic
  - Didn’t want to challenge authority? That came more from organizers?

Field notes post meeting w Juan Espinoza, Public Counsel Attorney, 3/7/2023

- Didn’t need to be speaking the language to feel the energy in the room shift when vendors started sharing stories of being criminalized
  - Anger, frustration, confusion
  - You could hear in ppl’s voices cracking
- Power in the group- jessica standing up and rallying energy
  - Solidarity of vendors working with one another instead of competing
- Barrier of not speaking spanish, I could still help direct to bathroom
- Community, uplifting one another’s stories increased all sharing
- Public interest lawyer capacity is frustrating
  - Vendors were asking a lot of questions, wanted specific case advice that was not intention of meeting—more broad policy info session
- “Opportunities for advocacy” were abound
  - Too many places where laws need to be improved, where to start??

Notes from Redlands City Council Meeting 4/4/2023

- Invocation opening the meeting
  - Prayer? Everyone stood up and said it
  - As someone not involved in organized religion this was a very new experience for me
  - Along with pledge of allegiance
- Surprise libertarian councilman support
  - This was a shock to all of us
○ He was super disengaged and looked frustrated while I was making public comment, I tried to avoid making eye contact

● Racist white lady w/ the white bag accusing vendors of pouring grease down sink
  ○ Seemed to be on her own— everyone was booing and calling time
  ○ Physical manifestation of hatred that I had read a lot about

● Public comment on warehouse bill support, union saying IE was chosen to be site of warehouse industry
  ○ Again— tie to religion I don’t have experience with this perspective
  ○ Tensions between worker rights and preserving community health

● Weird union message abt community forward?
  ○ Seemed like a threat
  ○ One super tall, big man with a crowd came and gave intimidating, cryptic message about actually putting community first and then left
  ○ Wearing some union’s jacket

● Dynamics of debate, thought mayor would be more supportive

Notes from Storyteller’s Festival @ Pitzer 4/13/2023

● The food…. Incredible
  ○ Octopus aquachile with lime and cucumber and jalapeno
  ○ Deep fried quesadillas
  ○ Horchata
  ○ Learned what a smash burger is!

● The manual labor is definitely taking a toll on me— whole new level of respect for the work vendors are doing
  ○ Setting up/taking down mobile setup

Notes from Meeting w/SB Public Defender @ PD 4/26/2023

● Super fancy building— brand new
  ○ Right next to city courts, city hall— v government area

● Maggie said in elevator on the way up that they used to be in one in a lot worse condition, historical building so there were limits on any construction that they could do
  ○ At what point is preserving history more important than well-being of people occupying the space, especially when history is colonial narrative

● Andrew— IPMC is part of a general code that SB development code is pulling from, it’s not something that is enforceable as being violated, should be citing development code in that case