

Good afternoon,  
My name is Leah Lambiris, I live at 426 Breckinridge Lane and I own The Grecian Mama food truck

I am speaking today in opposition to proposed ordinance O-374-18, and specifically Section 115.358, paragraph H.

Sidewalks are a combination of public space and pseudo front yards of adjacent businesses. As a public space, sidewalks are where people travel, socialize, and conduct trade. Is it necessary to assume that pedestrian congestion requires regulations? Research says no.

Fifty years of research on pedestrian behavior and public space says that street vending and walking are compatible. Food truck lines are ever-changing. Lines form as customers order and dissipate as customers pick up food. Lines are not solid barriers, but easy to walk through. Pedestrians can move around, through and walk past anyone standing on a sidewalk with little if any disruption to pedestrian flow.

An analysis of Chicago food trucks suggests that both street design and patterns of public space behavior create compatibility between pedestrians and food truck customers. In real time observations of interactions between pedestrians and food truck customers, researchers noted that pedestrian were able to walk through or around customer clusters with only a slight pause or redirection, which caused less than a one second delay in pedestrian flow. Pedestrians in cities walk efficiently. Research noted that large city residents walk at 280 to 300 feet per minute, or 5 feet per second, so an adjustment in a walking path literally takes a fraction of second.

Additionally street design and common pedestrian behavior greatly reduces the impact of food truck lines. The area of the sidewalk closest to the curb typically contains such barriers to navigation as trashcans, paper vending boxes, bike racks, lampposts, parking meters and planters. These obstacles produce an effective “no

walk lane” that creates vending space, or space for customers to line up that is not in a natural pedestrian flow.

A third observation was that food truck lines naturally shifted in ways to reduce their own impact on pedestrian flow. Customers in line were aware of foot traffic and easily shifted out of the way to get out of pedestrians’ way.

Years of research have demonstrated that food truck lines do not impede pedestrian traffic flow. Extensive research over decades shows that the public space of sidewalks can and does safely accommodate commonly found street barriers, food truck lines and pedestrians.

This Ordinance needs to be withdrawn immediately.

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“Designing Fair and Effective Street Vending Policy: It’s Time for a New Approach”, Renia Ehrenfeucht, University of New Mexico