



Information Item

Date: March 30, 2012

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Acting Chief Al Venegas

Subject: Three-Month Update on Restricting Late-Night Food Truck Vending Activities on Main Street.

Introduction

This is a three-month update following the amendment of Chapter 6.36 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code restricting late-night food truck vending activities on Main Street.

Background

On [November 22, 2011](#), City Council adopted the resolution to amend Chapter 6.36 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code in order to restrict late-night vending activities on Main Street.

Discussion

Since adoption of the ordinance on November 22, 2011, restricting Main Street food truck vending on Saturday and Sunday nights between Ocean Park Blvd and Marine Street, the related public safety concerns have diminished considerably after 1:00 a.m. The public safety concerns that have diminished as a result of the ordinance are: the number of pedestrians in the roadway, sidewalk overcrowding, and hazardous jaywalking to “shop” the food trucks’ offerings. Remaining safety and quality-of-life issues to be addressed by the Police Department and other City staff, include monitoring large numbers of people that continue to visit the concentration of alcohol-serving establishments, re-notification of vending trucks of the amended ordinance, and the clearing of patrons leaving the alcohol establishments.

Although diminished, sidewalk crowding and pedestrians in the roadway still occur, primarily near the alcohol establishments around closing time, requiring Police to help disperse the crowds to open sidewalk passage. In addition, there is one eating establishment open during the late-night hours, Holy Guacamole, located at 2906 Main Street, which draws many patrons to its walk-up window. After bar closing time, patrons line up at the window to order food. The sidewalk quickly becomes full and passersby are forced to enter the roadway to walk around the crowd.

Additionally, officers have found that only a portion of the vending truck operators are aware of the change in the ordinance. As 1:00 a.m. approaches, it has been necessary for officers to notify vendor truck operators that they will be in violation of the Municipal Code if they do not move from the restricted area. Police officers have also learned that, of the vendors who are aware, several continue to vend, waiting to see if the restrictions will be enforced. As far as complaints and calls for service from the nearby community, the Police Department has continued to receive infrequent complaints from neighbors about noisy patrons leaving Main St. businesses at 2:00 a.m. Since November 22, 2011, the police department has received two such calls.

Summary

Main Street remains a vibrant corridor in the City, attracting a significant number of evening and late-night visitors. To maintain quality-of-life for the residents, businesses and visitors alike in the Main Street area, the Police Department will continue to monitor the area and work with City staff and the area businesses to address safety concerns, and provide additional education and outreach to the vending truck operators regarding the vending ordinance.

Prepared By: Lieutenant Jay Trisler