



Erika Carlos <erika@eltecolote.org>

Fwd: Request for Leadership on Resolution: Food Vendor Implementation Pathways

1 message

Beatriz Johnston <beatriz@eltecolote.org>

Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 6:02 PM

To: Erika Carlos <erika@eltecolote.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Info Info** <info@nuestracausa.org>

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 2:35 PM

Subject: Fwd: Request for Leadership on Resolution: Food Vendor Implementation Pathways

To: <beatriz@eltecolote.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Info Info** <info@nuestracausa.org>

Date: Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 10:42 AM

Subject: Request for Leadership on Resolution: Food Vendor Implementation Pathways

To: Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>, Fielder, Jackie (BOS) <Jackie.Fielder@sfgov.org>

Cc: Hsieh, Frances (BOS) <frances.hsieh@sfgov.org>, Gaona, Sasha (BOS) <sasha.gaona@sfgov.org>, andreaguirola415@gmail.com <andreaguirola415@gmail.com>, Rodrigo Lopez <rolomissionstreetvendors@gmail.com>, Joshua Jacobo <joshua@nuestracausa.org>, Leila Soveron Ovando <chef.leila@nuestracausa.org>, E. Nataly Ortiz <estelanataly@nuestracausa.org>

Good Morning Supervisor Chan and Fielder,

Thank you for your support on the CMFO legislation to date.

As the food vendor legislation moves forward, we are writing to request your continued leadership on implementation.

Vendor leaders met with our team yesterday and identified a clear next step to help ensure this policy functions in practice. The ask was to request a resolution that focuses on the implementation pathways for food vendors in San Francisco. While not legally binding, this helps set the tone for the intended direction, which would be a vital support.

This is especially important as key components, including the analysis and implementation of Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO), or home cooking, have not yet been initiated locally despite prior commitments over the past two years.

We support the goal of legalization and want to see this policy succeed. However, as you know there remains a clear gap between what the legislation requires and what vendors can realistically meet today. Vendors are facing cart costs between \$8,000–\$18,000, commissary requirements of approximately \$2,400 per month, limited available vending spaces, and no access to MEHKO as an alternative pathway.

Without viable pathways to compliance, enforcement becomes the immediate concern. Vendors will be placed out of compliance on day one, not because they are unwilling to follow the law, but because the system to do so does not yet exist.

For that reason, we believe a helpful next step is to support a resolution to ensure implementation is aligned with real pathways. The collective ask on that resolution would be:

- Urge the Department of Public Health to initiate a formal analysis and develop an implementation plan for MEHKO (home cooking) in San Francisco
- Request a report back to the Board within a defined timeline outlining pathways, barriers, and resource needs

- Identify what is required for vendors to comply in practice, including access to carts, funding options, and available vending spaces
- Include recommendations for a phased enforcement approach for existing vendors, ensuring enforcement is aligned with the availability of viable compliance pathways, including MEHKO
- Encourage coordination across relevant City departments to ensure implementation reflects current vendor realities

We believe this is a necessary step to ensure that legalization results in real access and opportunity for vendors, rather than unintended displacement.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with your offices to help develop this resolution and are asking if you would be open to leading or co-sponsoring this effort.

We are available to meet and discuss next steps.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration.

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Illyana Chavez
Executive Administrator
info@nuestracausa.org