



Metro

Los Angeles County
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March 29, 2017

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON *PAW*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: ALEX Z. WIGGINS *AW*
CHIEF, SYSTEM SECURITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: WESTLAKE MACARTHUR PARK COMMUNITY MARKET

ISSUE

On March 30, 2017, Metro will launch a Community Market at the Westlake/McArthur Station as a one-year pilot program to address historic challenges of safe boarding and alighting of our riders due to street vending and other activities non conducive to transit operations. The pilot program aims to facilitate unimpeded access to Metro transit service, and transform the station plaza into a safe, pleasant and inviting environment. The concept of the Community Market was developed as a result of ongoing engagement with the vendor community to minimize blight and disorder.

DISCUSSION

In an effort to manage longstanding street vending at Metro's Westlake/McArthur Park Station, Metro partnered with L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, L.A. City Council Member Gil Cedillo, Central City Neighborhood Partners and Union de Vendedores Ambulantes (Union of Street Vendors) to launch a one-year 'permitted' pilot vending project at the Westlake/McArthur Park Station. The Metro issued permit allows vending on the station's plaza, but in a regulated manner to ensure safe boarding and alighting, minimize blight and disorder and to ultimately transform the station plaza into an inviting environment.

The City and County of Los Angeles have pooled financial resources to fund the pilot program expenses over the next year. These include various permits, maintenance and security costs. There is no cost to Metro. The program will be

administered by the Central City Neighborhood Partners, a community nonprofit street vendor membership organization that will keep records of vendor applications and coordinate member contributions as well operating costs. All spaces will be shared; vendors will be permitted to sell items such as goods and food. Extra security as well as restroom facilities will also be provided – again at no cost to Metro.

The Westlake/ MacArthur Park Community Market pilot program demonstrates a strong commitment to partnering with the community to solve problems. As such, the Security and Law Enforcement team will collaborate with the Office of Extraordinary Innovation (OEI) to conduct a case study on the pilot program. This study will provide an in-depth look both into the institutional processes that helped to enable the development and deployment of this project. It will provide an overview of program set-up, program challenges, and program successes. It will then provide a set of lessons learned based on the experience at MacArthur Park, thereby providing a series of recommendations if Metro considers an expansion of the program.

NEXT STEPS

On March 30, 2017 Metro will have a press conference at 10am at the Westlake/ MacArthur Park Station. Security and law enforcement will continue to monitor the impact of the vendor project throughout the one year pilot program and report to the Board on a quarterly basis to ensure accessibility at all of our stations.