

February 26, 2012

TO: South Park Business Group members

RE: Proposed policy re sidewalk vendors in South Park during Walkabouts:

Background:

Business owners in South Park have contributed funds which -- together with a grant from the City of San Diego BID Council – pay for producing and promoting our quarterly Walkabouts. It is this effort – paid for by the business owners – that brings people to the Walkabouts. These same business owners also pay for permits, business licenses and insurance to be in business.

Sidewalk vendors who set up during the Walkabouts are selling to customers that we have generated, and often cause other problems. Some block sidewalks, some operate without business licenses, and some sell merchandise that conflicts with nearby storefront businesses that have funded the very effort that brings people to the event.

Today there is differing opinion as to whether any sidewalk vendors should be allowed during Walkabouts. Years ago when there were fewer businesses and less promotion, the added festivity contributed to the event’s flavor and gave visitors expanded activity. Now we have a more vibrant business neighborhood, and many blocks are lined with small businesses working hard to succeed.

Our Policy:

Although it is against City zoning regulations to set up a cart or sell on a public sidewalk, we have maintained an informal policy in the past that any non-SPBG vendor who sets up at the Walkabout must have the permission of the adjacent storefront business. If you choose to grant that permission, we now ask that you provide a copy of this notice to that vendor. We will have a SPBG monitor who will ask each vendor to provide this completed form.

Name of Vendor	
Permission from what Business	
Contact name, phone	
Contact email address	
City of San Diego Municipal Code Section 31.0121 states that no person shall engage in any business, trade calling, or occupation until a certificate of payment is obtained. Self-employed persons and independent contractors are also required to pay the Business Tax. Any person engaged in business in the City of San Diego, but not operating from a fixed place of business, shall keep the certificate issued to him or her at all times while engaging in such business.	
Business Tax certificate number	

The neighborhood code compliance department, which enforces zoning, may focus on stationary vendors. Be advised that a garage sale in front of a home is legal, but only up to three times per year. **Setting up a cart or selling on a public sidewalk is not.**

Do not block the sidewalks in any way. If pedestrians are forced to step into the street to get past your area at any time, this becomes a public safety issue and you may be cited and closed. No open flames or selling of food items without appropriate Health Dept. permits.

Vendor acknowledges receipt of this notice: (signature) _____