

DISTRICT OFFICE
778 CASTLE HILL AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10473
TEL: (718) 792-1140
FAX: (718) 931-0235

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1880
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-6853

AFarias@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
AMANDA FARÍAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, 18TH DISTRICT, BRONX

CHAIR
WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
HOSPITALS

SUBCOMMITTEE
ZONING AND FRANCHISES

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Good Afternoon,

I want to thank the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection for holding this public hearing, working with the City Council through the passage of the Street Vendor Reform Package to this day, and hearing testimony on these critical rules related to vending. I look forward to the completion of the rule-making process, the installation of new systems within the reformed street vendor licensing framework, and the rollout of new licenses for the first time in decades that will bring vendors into compliance while simultaneously fixing our broken and neglected system.

In New York City, there are over 23,000 Vendors that serve their fellow community members, neighbors, and the tourists visiting this city. They serve us, increase economic activity, and foster the culture that makes this city thrive while creating jobs, bringing neighborhoods together, and serving as an integral part of this city's fabric.

However, because of the city's bureaucracy and outdated caps on licenses set in the 1970s that prevented growth alongside the city's rising population, thousands of vendors were forced into an underground and unregulated economy, targeted by city enforcement, and, occasionally, confronted with criminal charges in a system they could not escape from. The former system prevented compliance, while the new system will bring about compliance, regulation, and a workable system for the city and street vendors to operate within.

The proposed rulemaking follows the spirit of the Street Vendor Package by creating the structures to expand general vending licensing while ensuring that those who have fairly waited their turn have access to those new licenses.

The proposed rules allow individuals who have applied and have waited for years, in order of their applications, to receive a license first, followed by those who are currently vending during the application period from November 2 to December 16, 2026. This process, giving primacy to those who have been waiting and are currently vending, both follows the spirit of Local Law 54 of 2026 and allows those individuals, acting in good faith and who have been waiting for years, to escape the legal and administrative limbo of the former system that hurt thousands of New Yorkers. Then, following these two groups, any new applicant can apply and, subject to the waitlist, receive a license.

With this rulemaking, the old general vending structure will be gone and, with the new Division of Street Vendor Assistance within the Department of Small Business Services and enforcement tied to vending, the new system will be robust, compliance-based, fair, and up-to-date with the current realities of our city rather than the 1970s.

Though there is still more work to be done, from rollout to managing enforcement within the new system, this is a major step towards correcting the injustices and systemic incongruencies that New York City Vendors have faced for decades. This new system will ensure that those good-faith, compliant vendors within New York City will be able to work, strive, prosper, and succeed while strengthening the city's economy, adding to the New York experience, and enriching our streets for the benefit of all New Yorkers and anyone who wishes to visit our great city.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Farías", written in a cursive style.

Hon. Amanda Farías
Council Member, District 18
New York City Council