



Ordinance Amending the San Francisco Public Works Code

Article 5.9 "Permit Regulations for Vendors"
Following the Passage of California
Senate Bill 276 (SAFE Streets Act)

**To Enable Enhanced Enforcement for Vending
Targeted Merchandise on City Property Without a Permit**



BILL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

SB 946 Safe Sidewalk Vending Act 2018

- This state law decriminalized street vending in California and removed police departments' authority to enforce vending permit requirements apart from criminal activity
- Unintentionally, SB946 —combined with COVID and other factors—created the conditions that led to increased sales of stolen goods (fencing) and unsafe sidewalk conditions in some San Francisco neighborhoods

Concerns over objective health, safety, and welfare concerns such as oversaturation fencing and other illegal activities led to advocacy from:

- Mission District Community
- Merchants
- Mission Street Vendors Association
- Tenderloin Community
- Chinatown Community

City Implemented Mission Street Corridor Vending Restrictions While Supporting Amendments to State Law

- Vending restrictions on Mission St. from Cesar Chavez St. to 14th St. (Vending pilot program on three blocks)
- Multi-departmental effort

WHAT IS CA SB 276?

Purpose

- To authorize San Francisco to more effectively address the sale of stolen and other goods on City property without a permit by allowing police to enforce certain violations
- To promote permitted vending and support vendors and healthy street conditions

Legislative Sponsors and Partners

- Bill introduced by Senator Wiener
- Ordinance implementing SB 276 -sponsored by Mayor Lurie
- Bill and ordinance supported by street vendors and community stakeholders

List of Merchandise Commonly Targeted for Retail Theft:

- Vendors who sell merchandise that is commonly targeted for retail theft face a written warning for the first violation followed by escalating enforcement by the Police Department
- List of “Targeted Merchandise” excludes foods prepared on-site and any prepackaged items sold together with on-site prepared food
- Vendors who have a valid vending permit issued by Public Works will not be subject to enforcement by the Police Department
- Targeted Merchandise list will need to be submitted annually to the Board of Supervisors



LOCAL ORDINANCE

The Board of Supervisors is
Considering Amendments to
DPW Article 5.9 Code to
Implement SB 276

Definitions

“Targeted Merchandise” refers to merchandise commonly targeted for retail theft

Permit and Identification

- Vendors must demonstrate proof of Ownership in Lawful Manner (e.g., receipts of purchase etc.)
- Vendor Identification (name, phone number, mailing address)
 - To safeguard civil rights and due process, prohibits inquiring or collecting information regarding immigration, citizenship, place of birth, criminal history, fingerprints or background checks as part of permit application process.
- Limits cost of vending permit for low-income applicants

Enforcement

Outlines Consequences for Vending Targeted Merchandise Without a Permit

Reporting

Annual report to the SF Board of Supervisors and relevant committees of the CA legislature related to enforcement activities related to SB 276

TARGETED MERCHANDISE

**Based on SFPD Incident
Reports**

*The list of “Targeted
Merchandise” is based on
items of food and
merchandise identified in the
Department’s Crime Analysis
Unit retail theft dataset.*

Food & Beverages	Food/Drinks (general); Packaged Food and Snacks; Candy; Nuts; Meat Products; Soda; Coffee; Alcohol; Wine
Clothing & Accessories	Clothing/Shoes (general); Eyeglasses; Sunglasses; Watch; Belt; Jewelry; Wallet; Purse; Hat
Cosmetics & Skin Care	Cosmetics (general); Makeup (general); Concealer; Foundation; Powder; Lipstick; Eyeliner; Mascara; Primer; Gloss; Perfume; Face Serum; Facial Cream; Lotion; Sunscreen; Nail Polish; False Eyelashes; Lash Glue; Bronzers; Hair Dyes
Personal Hygiene & Toiletries	Hygiene Items (general); Deodorant; Toothpaste; Toothbrush; Mouthwash; Shampoo; Conditioner; Soap; Body Wash; Razors; Shaving Product; Shave Gel;
Household Cleaning & Paper Products	Detergent; Dish Soap; Dishwasher Pods; Cleaning Supplies; Disinfecting Spray; Wipes; Air Freshener; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; Trash Bags; Laundry Beads; Laundry Pods
Electronics & Batteries	Electronics/Accessories (general); Laptop; Tablet; Computer; Cell Phone; Charger; Power Bank; Battery; Headphones; Earbuds; Speakers; TVs; Monitors
Medicine, Vitamins & Tobacco Products	Medicine/Supplements (general); Cold Medicine; Allergy Medicine; Pain Reliever; Vitamins; First-Aid Supplies; Bandages; Wraps; Gel Packs; Blood-Pressure Monitors; Tobacco Products (general); Cigarettes; Nicotine Gum
Bags, Backpacks & Suitcases	Bag/Backpack/Suitcase (general); Shopping Bag
Currency & Cards	Currency; Cards (Debit, Credit, ID and Gift); Checks
Household Goods & Decor	Kitchen Supplies (general); Cookware; Home Decor; Bedding; Towels; Blanket; Candle
Tools, Hardware & Automotive	Tools (general); Bolt Cutters; Drill; Drill Bit; Motor Oil; Coolant; Jumper Cables; Locks; Keys

Total Retail-Theft Incidents Represented: 16,842 (Jan 2023 - Sept 2025) Source: SFPD Crime Analysis Unit Retail-Theft Property Items Dataset

ENFORCEMENT

Actions and Consequences
Vendors Will Face for Selling
Targeted Merchandise on
Public Property Without a Vending
Permit



First Violation

A written warning;

- For the first violation, the City shall issue a written warning identifying the Targeted Merchandise subject to the unpermitted vending and indicating the date, time, and location of the violation.

Second and Third Violations

An infraction within 18 months of the first violation;

Fourth Violation and Beyond

Infractions or misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed 6 months and/or a fine not to exceed \$1,000, within 18 months of the first violation

CITY'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

City's meetings leading up to this point

- Ongoing proactive program interventions to enroll and support permitted vendors in the Mission District
- From January 2024 to June 2025, conducted three surveys of small business in the Mission District about their experiences and perceptions of public health and safety related to vending and fencing.
- Routine Mission stakeholder meetings to discuss street vending programing/initiatives: SB 276, Compact Mobile Food Operations, Mission Street Vending Pilot, etc.
- Monthly attendance of Mission Street Vendor Association meetings beginning in January 2025, to update on vending initiatives and programs

Sacramento visits and testimony

- Over the last two years, Street vendors and City traveled to Sacramento six times to lobby for the state vending bill Small Business Commission

Small Business Commission

- On Sept 22, 2025, the Small Business Commission held an Informational Session on SB 276

Formal workshops

- The City held five formal workshops about SB 276 and the proposed implementing ordinance with stakeholder groups with the Chinatown Community, TL-Mid-Market stakeholders, Mission Stakeholders and the Mission Street Vendors Association, and the San Francisco Benefit District Alliance



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS-INPUT AND QUESTIONS

Commonly Stolen Items	Community Education	Management of Personal Information	Enforcement	Other
<p>Items That May Be Included in the List of Targeted Merchandise:</p> <p>Alcohol, Cosmetics, Apparel, Packaged Meats, Vitamins/Supplements, Razor Blades, Baby Formula, Electronics, Laundry Detergent, Over the Counter Medicine, Jewelry, Toys, Cigarettes,</p> <p>Q1: Does this include homemade products? A1: No</p> <p>Q2: Will permitted vendors be able to sell items on the list? A2: Yes, items on the list may be sold lawfully with a permit and with proof of lawful purchase.</p>	<p>Q1: What information or outreach will be conducted to community and vendors? A1: Press engagement, informational brochures in different languages to vendors and those interested in applying for a permit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: How will PD and DPW coordinate for enforcement? • A1: A database for internal sharing is being developed for those that receive initial written warning. • Q2: How will verifiable identification be collected? • A2: DPW will request it with PD present. • Q3: Will information collected by the City be shared with people outside of the City? • A3: Personal information will be protected, no information about immigration status will be collected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent enforcement of the policy needed • Coordinate with DA on misdemeanor charges • Enforcement operations must be sensitive and consider current immigration climate. • Q1: Are there additional enforcement resources included as part of this? • A1: No • Q2: Can something be done to curb demand by punishing those purchasing stolen goods? • A2: Laws already exist that penalize this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing operations impact permitted vendors, retail businesses and storefronts, cars selling stolen items occupy parking spots all day. • Q1: What happens after state legislation expires in 2031? • A1: City will have to work with State to get it renewed.

Questions?

