



Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

# Urban Paradigms & Street Vending: A Global View

# 1. Licensing Regimes

**Conventional wisdom:** Street vendors are ‘outside’ of regulation. Yet we see **extensive regulation of vendors** all over the world.

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New York City Independent Budget Office

Fiscal Brief

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November 2010

Sidewalk Standoff:

**Street Vendor Regulations Are Costly, Confusing, and Leave Many Disgruntled**

**Standard framework for licensing:** require vendors to hold a license in order to trade, then limit the number of licenses issued, and selectively enforce when politically convenient. **Modifications needed:** to recognize the possibilities for regulation with low barriers to access for licenses specifically.

## 2. Spatial Control

**Conventional wisdom:** evicting/relocating street vendors will make them go away.

**Standard framing driven by** entrepreneurial urban governance paradigm. Research on political dynamics of urban space (including resistance) is now well established.

**Modifications needed:** to differentiate ‘formalization’ approaches using spatial control from other approaches.





# 3. Enforcement

**Conventional wisdom:**  
regulations aren't enforced.

**Standard frameworks for enforcement:** fines, merchandise confiscations, license revocations, arrests.  
**Modifications needed:** to close gaps via administrative law.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD • NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND HEARING • FOR CIVIL PENALTIES ONLY  
City of New York, Petitioner vs Respondent:

LAST NAME (Print) FIRST NAME INITIAL Sex  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

TYPE OF LICENSE / PERMIT OR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER  
1  Consumer Affairs License 7  Vehicle Plate 8  Cert. of Auth.  
2  Health Dept. License 9  Meter Number 9  Build. Reg. No.  
3  Motorist Identification 6  Soc. Sec. No. 10  Telephone No.  
10  Other

NOTICE ALSO SENT TO FIRST NAME INITIAL  
LAST NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

The Respondent is charged with violation of Law/Rule.

Date of Offense AM Time PM Borough CB NO. Violation Code  
3/20/16 3:15 E M Bx Bkn Q St 001 1716

NYC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE/RULES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK OTHER CODES  
1  Air Code Provisions 5  Sanitation Provisions 9  Park Rules 11  NYS Public Health Law  
2  Noise Code Provisions 6  General Vendor Provisions 10  Other 12  NYC Health Code Provisions  
3  Water Code Provisions 7  Food Vendor Provisions 13  NYS VTL  
4  Sewer Code Provisions 8  Transportation Provisions 14  Other

SECTION/RULE  
At Front of Opposite Place of Occurrence

DETAILS OF VIOLATION  
As per 24 hr. no. infraction  
Vendor License # 975-14972 (Vendor)  
From food area of 9800 local building  
Not being at this time per work  
Not being at this time per work

Property Removed  ALTERNATIVE SERVICE  
 Yes  No  1-2 Family  Multiple Dwelling  Commercial

Mail-In Penalty Schedule  
\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ Other  
1  2  3  4  5  See Date and Time Below:

Maximum Penalty For Violation  
\$ or see reverse side  
8:50 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 2:30 PM

Date of Hearing 3 Day of February 20 1 2 3 4

Proceedings to be held under the authority of Section 1049-a of the NYC Charter and the rules promulgated thereunder.  
**WARNING:** If you do not appear (or pay by mail if permitted) you will be held in default and subject to the maximum penalties permitted by law. Failure to appear or pay a penalty in person may lead to suspension of your license or other action affecting your ability to do business in the City of New York, as well as the possibility of a judgment entered against you in Civil Court. **FOR HEARING YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON AT THE HEARING.**

I, an employee of the below agency, personally observed the commission of the civil violation charged above. False statements made herein are punishable as a class A Misdemeanor pursuant to section 120.45 of the Penal Law. Attirmed under penalty of perjury.

BANK (TITLE) SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT REPORT LEVEL  
(Title & position, Comm'l. Sd. Unit, etc.)

COMPLAINANT'S NAME (Printed) TAX REGISTRY NUMBER AGENCY  
9131361211 NY/DO

No. E 176 590 756  
176 590 756

# 4. Taxation

**Conventional wisdom:** street vendors don't pay taxes.

**Standard frameworks** for taxation: local levies, excise taxes, fees associated with licenses, permits, health certifications. **Modifications needed:** accounting for 'costs of being informal' including all forms of tax, plus relationship of tax to service provision.



# Three Priorities for Research

- Ongoing interactions between street vending organizations and authorities at all levels — the spaces in between the headlining moments
- Emerging models for own-account workers to access social protection and otherwise mitigate risk
- Structured comparisons as one of many methods that bring value to debates on street vending