

My name is Maria Angelica Castillo Luna. I am a member of the street vendor project and I sell chopped fruit on 23rd and 6th avenue. I have been selling on the street for 12 years and for those 12 years I have been unable to get a permit to sell legally. I am writing this testimony to support bills s1175/a5081 that would legalize the street vending industry.

The city is not giving permits and it is affecting our livelihood because I can't get the permit legally. We are forced to buy it on the black market for up to 20,000 to \$30,000 for two years and that's not fair. I am a mother and I just want to work to bring food to my children with dignity but with this system it's very difficult because I don't have a permit. I have to work in fear of the police and very expensive tickets. My experience with the police has been traumatic. The city agencies have given me tickets that have been incredibly hard to pay off.

Street Vendors like me are important. We contribute to the city with our taxes that is why we demand that \$19 million dollars be allocated to fund the legalization of the street vending industry. As a vendor I ask the the proposal S1175 pass in the Senate and that A5081 pass in the assembly. We need this proposal to pass because that way we would work and respect the rules of the city. I am a vendor. I am not a criminal.