

Good evening councilmembers and town of Apple Valley.

My name is Enrique Duque (and was likely just mispronounced on live tv). I am a local Mexican-American citizen, emergency medical technician, and US Navy submarine veteran.

My comment is this: sidewalk vendors, predominantly of Mexican descent, and collectively either poor or MAYBE in the middle class, are being punished for what has been claimed to be "health reasons."

I supported Measure O, and was disappointed to see it fail. However, I am even more disappointed to see my people and some of the poorest of our community punished for the Town's inability to sell the Measure. Now, low income Mexicans attempting to survive amidst the pandemic, are footing part of the bill via licenses. Further, they are being forced into submitting criminal background checks to prove we don't have dangerous criminals selling cheap food on the streets? It doesn't even begin to add up.

Meanwhile, businesses such as Gator's on bear valley and Corky's are packing their establishments with patrons with NO enforcement coming down on them despite the serious health risks involved.

Why the imbalance? Why are major self sustaining profitable establishments facing less enforcement than our community's poorest, and hardest hit by the times?

A more LOGICAL option would be a mandatory notice be posted by each vendor that their operations are not regulated by governmental involvement and that patrons eat/drink at their own risk.

Stop punishing the poor and minority individuals of our community, let these people live instead of pretending that health is the number one priority here.

Respectfully,

Enrique Duque IV