

October 1st,2021

Barbados Vending Bill

Recommendations and Suggestions by the Product Development Department of the BTMI

The BTMI, through the Product Development Department, was asked to comment on the Barbados Vendors Bill. Vending is an activity, that if done right, could enliven our streets and provide opportunities to an often neglected workforce; the informal sector. That being said, the BTMI is supportive of this Bill. Please see the below recommendations for your kind attention:

Licensing grant (section 5) should also include Police Certificate of Character (POC) and Verbiage for POC should indicate it is not for discriminatory reasons.

Attendance at a training programme such as BarbadosTogether Workshop to be a mandatory prerequisite - A prerequisite of attending a training programme such as BarbadosTogether Workshop within a designated timeframe of attaining the license to vend, should be included in the bill. One of the key brand pillars which destination Barbados promotes is friendliness. And while a vast number of Barbadians exhibit friendliness, reports from various sources suggest that there is room for improvement in this area. This informal sector has long been considered a vital part of the induced tourism industry as their visitor encounters are well documented. Given the fact that they serve in a customer facing role, it is recommended that their customer service skills should be enhanced through regular attendance at training programmes such as the BarbadosTogether. A further recommendation is that the renewal of licenses should be tied to the completion of refresher customer service courses.

Cashless payment options - The bill should seek to encourage vendors to utilize digital technology in the form of cashless payment systems for vendors. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, many large and medium sized businesses were forced to employ cashless systems as customers became increasingly uncomfortable with touching cash or point of sales (POS) hardware. Applications such as Venmo, QuickBooks Cash and Square, are just three of many programmes that are easy to set up and use. The government, through the Ministry of M.I.S.T could think about incentivizing vendors to consider utilizing a recommended cashless pay system by tying a reward programme to the system. This would aid in the island's SMART technology goals.

Reward system for outstanding service - Just as the act now indicates that persons can be severely reprimanded for violations of conduct, a system should be in place to reward and applaud, outstanding conduct and service.

Vending Identification Cards – These should be in digital as well as in printable format that is visible to customers. ID cards should include picture ID and expiry date.

Revocation, suspension or varying of license (section 8) – This should include specific reference to violation of the Sexual Harassment Act. A clause should be included to accommodate suspensions due to repeated complaints and after thorough investigation. Additionally, the bill needs to include a clearly identified system to better track violations that would flag repeat violators.

Relocation or eviction of vendors (section 19) - This should state “**up to a maximum of 30 days**” this would ensure that persons can be evicted in the shortest possible time-frame based on the exigencies of the situation.

Alternative vending – the bill could seek to include alternative vendors such as musicians who may be able to operate in a space similar to the other vendors to showcase their musical talent for tips.

Please see the following comments with respect to, where known vending currently occurs in the various parishes and some recommendations for additional vending locations:

St. Michael & St. Thomas

- In St. Michael there is already legal vending at the Barven Market on the Mighty Grynner Highway and Deacons Farm; further suggestions are the Botanical Gardens and its environs, Tyrol Cot. The known illegal ones are Carlton Supermarket, Black Rock; Spooners Hill, outside Eagle Hall market, the Warrens stretch of the ABC Highway, outside the Dome Mall, Green Hill, Norman Niles Roundabout.
- In St. Thomas there is already the existing Freedom Village vendor’s mart. Further to these there is vending at Sturges Corner and the junction before Harrison’s Cave

St. Philip

- King George V Memorial Park
- Six Roads - Informal vending by roundabout
- Emerald City/ Shop Smart / Simmons Electrical
- Sam Lord’s Castle / Hilda Skeene Primary School

Christ Church

- Oistins Bay Gardens – vending already established
- Carpark on opposite side of road/ Bus stand area
- Off massy Car park/ Beach area and opposite sides of road leading to Fish Market
- Section off Top Rock Roundabout (mainly coconut vendors and possible some fruit vending)/ Kendal/ Deighton Griffith / Ocean Park
- Grantley Adams Airport/ Christ Church Parish Church

St. Lucy

- St. Lucy Parish Church Carpark

- Checker Hall Playing Field
- Crab Hill Cricket Grounds

St. Peter

- Mahaica Playing field
- Indian Ground Playing Field Area
- Roadside opposite the Old All Saints Girl school on Highway 1

St. Andrew

- Belleplaine Playing Field (surrounding area of the field)
- Barclays Park
- Erma Bourne

St. James

- Weston, St. James
- Holders Hill, St. James (If there will be a community-based tourism tour in the area)

St Andrew & St Peter

- Cherry Tree Hill
- Speightstown

St. George

Gun Hill Signal Station

St. John

Hackleton's Cliff

St. John's Parish Church Yard

Recommended to be Established:

- Ermie Bourne Highway/ Barclays Park
- Farley Hill / Wildlife Reserve / Grenade Hall Signal Station
- Chalky Mount Pottery Village (further development needed)
- Morgan Lewis Windmill – even with the windmill temporarily closed, it can form a nice backdrop for a vending zone, specifically for arts and craft.
- Six Mens (possible community tourism site)
- The trail ways in St. Joseph

The establishment of vending zones in these areas should be accessible, be accompanied by public restrooms which are cleaned and maintained, and where possible should be accompanied by free WIFI. From a tourism perspective, these are things that would encourage visitors to linger. Additionally, tourism can possibly partner to erect adequate digital signage, which would also provide information on the history/key attributes of the site/community.

Additionally, it was recommended that certain zones should be designated for specific types of vending. Specific areas for arts/craft, specific areas for food etc. Some will be able to carry all, but

if it is a historic site, such as Morgan Lewis, a historic church, or lighthouse, then more authentic arts and craft should be encouraged primarily, even if food is secondary.