

Hernandez, Acacia

9/17/17

J199, Meyer

Re-write #2

[http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/GoFundMe-For-Hot-Dog-Vendor-Goes-Viral-After-Video-Shows-UCPD-Seizing-Earnings-443765063.html?\\_osource=SocialFlowTwt\\_BAYBrand](http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/GoFundMe-For-Hot-Dog-Vendor-Goes-Viral-After-Video-Shows-UCPD-Seizing-Earnings-443765063.html?_osource=SocialFlowTwt_BAYBrand)

Debates about civil forfeiture continue after a video showing UC Berkeley Cops seizing a street vendor's earnings went viral. A GoFundMe page raised more than \$70,000 in support of the vendor, while a petition to fire the police officer who issued the citation has collected more than 32,000 signatures.

"People saw I wasn't doing anything wrong," the man, who asked to be identified only as "Beto," said. "I wasn't stealing or drinking. I was just working to sustain my family."

UCPD officials said three other people were warned about vending without a permit, but the vendor in the video was the only person who was given a ticket.

"While I cannot comment on the specifics of this particular case, our practice is to issue warnings before giving a citation," UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor Scott Bidy said.

Civil forfeiture was originally meant to disrupt "large-scale criminal enterprises," but it has since been abused by small and large law enforcement agencies, according to the ACLU. Reform efforts directed at changing civil forfeiture laws are already underway.