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Embattled Peanut Vendor Fails Inspection

By *ALISON BOWEN*

Natahsa Lennard for The New York Times Mohammed Shirajul Islam

The city still has one fewer peanut vendor on the sidewalks today.

Mohammed Shirajul Islam, who became a cause célèbre after he **lost his cart license** for taking too long a bathroom break, failed an inspection Thursday for a new permit.

The health department cited problems including dirt near the wash sink, a broken burner and missing cooking equipment.

“He showed up with a cart that was pretty dirty, not properly operating and didn’t have the proper tools and utensils in it,” said Dan Kass, the department’s acting deputy commissioner for environmental health.

But Sean Basinski, director of the Urban Justice Center’s **Street Vendor Project**, who accompanied Mr. Islam, said they weren’t told what to bring, like pans.

“The cart had a permit a week ago, so nothing had changed,” he said.

Mr. Kass said that bringing a fully equipped, spotless cart is part of regular inspection protocol, which is covered in vendor training.

“When they show up with dirty carts, the only conclusion we can come to is, this cart is not ready to be on the street,” he said.

Mr. Islam will have another chance at a fresh permit soon. The health department invited him to come for another inspection Thursday.

“We’d love to get him back on the street,” Mr. Kass said.