

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Juarez  
**Date Submitted:** 02/08/2022 03:55 PM  
**Council File No:** 17-0981  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached a letter of support on behalf of the CA Restaurant Association.



February 8, 2022

Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N Spring St,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Item No. 1: Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP)**

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the California Restaurant Association (CRA), and the thousands of restaurants in the City of Los Angeles, I would like to express our strong support for item 1 on the Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting agenda which would create the Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP).

The Restaurant Beverage Program will allow eligible restaurateurs to serve alcohol through an expedited administrative clearing process as opposed to the current process of obtaining a Conditional Use Permit which is timely and expensive. The RBP will shorten the time required to obtain all necessary city approvals from months to weeks, and it will also reduce the overall cost of an alcohol permit from an estimated \$13,000 to \$4,000.

Additionally, the RBP outlines a set of criteria that restaurateurs will need to abide by in order to be eligible for the program. That criteria takes into account public safety and community needs. Some of the criteria that restaurateurs will need to abide by include:

- Only full-service restaurants are eligible to participate (bars, liquor stores, entertainment venues and fast casual restaurants are not eligible),
- Limitation on hours of operation,
- No live entertainment,
- Camera surveillance,
- Alcohol service training for all staff,
- Low noise levels and many more regulations.

With the decimation of the restaurant community due to COVID-19 and the government shutdowns, restaurants are in dire need of your assistance. Prior to the current state of emergency, restaurants were the largest employer in the state of California with over 1.4 million employees. At the height of the pandemic approximately 900,000 of those workers were furloughed or unemployed due to the closures. No doubt, the City of Los Angeles accounted for an enormous number of those jobs. In order to accelerate the recovery process of the restaurant community in Los Angeles, restaurants continue to need assistance from the city to keep their doors open. Adopting the Restaurant Beverage Program will expedite the recovery of existing restaurants and potentially expedite the opening of new restaurants that were in the process of opening before the pandemic.

The Restaurant Beverage Program has been in the making for over 4 years and it has gone through many variations and has been vetted by various stakeholder groups as well as city departments, city council committees, and the Public Works Commission - all who have given the program their stamp of approval.

For these reasons, we urge a YES vote on item 1 to create the Restaurant Beverage Program and allow many restaurants to survive and continue to be part of the fabric of the local communities that they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Juarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Juarez  
Director of Local Government Affairs  
California Restaurant Association