

Communication from Public

Name: David Bryant

Date Submitted: 02/09/2022 09:28 AM

Council File No: 17-0981

Comments for Public Posting: I submit this public comment regarding item #1 (17-0981) Restaurant Beverage Program. On November 10, 2020, our organization (United East Prevention Project or UCEPP) in collaboration with Community Coalition (COCO) wrote a letter to express concerns with and make critical recommendations to the City's Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP). Some of our suggestions have been incorporated but concerns about overconcentration protections, opportunities for public input, enforcement, and accountability still remain. SB 389 recently adopted by the State of CA will allow restaurants to sell alcohol to go until the year 2027. This dramatically changes the nature of this program and its potential impact on communities, particularly in a time of increased alcohol abuse. The RBP is also of concern to us because we are advocating to restrict new alcohol uses in the Downtown Community Plan, in an effort to make planning more diverse (an example being two of five census tracts connected to Skid Row, 2062.02 & 2260.02 which have a total of 117 alcohol licenses while only 9 are allowed by the state!) and responsive to the needs of the Skid Row neighborhood. Skid Row is a community that suffers from many addictions including overconsumption of alcohol as well as numerous dedicated resources to assist those in need and in recovery. On behalf of concerned coalition members we stress that we do not want this program implemented in CD#14, specifically Skid Row and adjacent communities. The complaint portal, ability to document problems at participating restaurants, and public access to complaints/concerns are not clear or strong enough. There are many things communities need in this time of heightened stress and anxiety, rising rates of substance abuse and addiction; an easier process for selling alcohol should not be on that list. In 2017, COCO found through a community-wide survey they conducted (4,000 residents of different backgrounds participated) that 73% of residents want lowering the number of alcohol outlets to be a priority for the City. They also found that 80% of residents believe community-friendly spaces should be of high priority. Rather than looking at alcohol establishments to stimulate a community's economy, we should look at other businesses that appropriately assist in a community's development and health and advance equity.

Los Angeles City Council
February, 9, 2022
Agenda Item #1 (17-0981) Restaurant Beverage Program

My name is David Bryant, and I am the Community Engagement Specialist at United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), a program of Social Model Recovery Systems. Since 1996, UCEPP has studied the link between environment and health in Skid Row and advocated alongside community members for equitable policies that support health and wellness. This has included nuisance abatement targeting problematic alcohol outlets, some taking more than a decade to address. We are currently working to include prohibition in Skid Row of any new alcohol uses utilizing the Downtown LA Community Plan (DTLA 2040). I submit this public comment regarding item #1 (17-0981) Restaurant Beverage Program. On November 10, 2020, our organization in collaboration with Community Coalition (COCO) wrote a letter to express concerns with and make critical recommendations to the City's Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP). Some of our suggestions have been incorporated but concerns about overconcentration protections, opportunities for public input, enforcement, and accountability still remain.

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Communication from Public

Name: Lizbeth Vivar

Date Submitted: 02/09/2022 10:46 AM

Council File No: 17-0981

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Lizbeth Vivar. I work and live in Council District 6. I am speaking as a member of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance. LA DAPA advocates for health and safety through policy change, advocating to empower communities against the harms caused by alcohol and drugs. LA DAPA submitted a list of amendments to the Restaurant Beverage Program proposal. Two of the amendments include limiting alcoholic beverage sales at restaurants to 30% and requiring restaurants applying for the program to have at least 20 seats. That proposal was turned down and we are here to express our disappointment. LA DAPA strongly recommends adding rigorous conditions around the sale and services of alcohol, including restrictions on happy hours, minimum drink requirements, and drink specials. Thank you.