

Communication from Public

Name: Nick
Date Submitted: 11/19/2020 10:02 AM
Council File No: 17-0981

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Nick and I work with a restaurant group that has several restaurants around Los Angeles. I am writing in to support the proposed ordinance that would create a Restaurant Beverage Program and an administrative process for alcohol sales tied to restaurants. I know this has been in discussion before COVID-19 and it was an extremely beneficial and exciting program then. Since COVID-19, the restaurant industry has been decimated. The creation of a Restaurant Beverage Program would help the small restaurant businesses that cannot afford a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the costs associate with the CUP process, as well as an expeditor to help them navigate the often complex and confusing process. Having an alcohol license can significantly increase restaurant revenue, help provide greater sales tax to the City, and also sustain the local jobs that restaurants provide to a wide variety of Angelenos from all socioeconomic levels. A CUP for alcohol in conjunction with a restaurant should not cost \$15,000. It is an insurmountable hurdle for small, local businesses and many restaurants are unable to tap into the potential revenue from alcohol sales. It is imperative that the City simplify the permitting process for restaurants and become more business friendly, especially for small businesses trying to survive the pandemic and provide continued employment to staff. In short, this ordinance provides small businesses with the opportunity for more revenue, which helps keep our restaurants open and viable, supporting jobs and bringing economic vitality to the City. We hope you will consider establishing the program to support the thousands of restaurants struggling to make it through this pandemic with a program that will be successful for years to come, even after recovery from the pandemic.

Communication from Public

Name: Adelene Bertha

Date Submitted: 11/19/2020 09:34 AM

Council File No: 17-0981

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Adelene Bertha. As a coalition member in support of United Coalition East Prevention Project efforts to address community wellness. I am writing in opposition. Item #12 proposed Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP). There concerns about this program (RBP) which aims to make it easier for restaurants citywide to get permits to sell alcohol. As a community advocate I am concerned that it hinders the process for community input and for the public to determine the types of businesses they want and need in their community. The sale of alcohol should not be a priority or be viewed as an economic generator without considering the impact on public health (especially in neighborhoods that already have many alcohol businesses). Alcohol is a major contributor to morbidity and there have been increases in drinking rates since the pandemic. Additionally concerning is the fact that CA State rules currently allow restaurants to sell alcohol “to go” and make alcohol deliveries (despite them not having the permits or license to do so). I ask that you do not let this program pass, as it will affect Skid Row and other communities negatively. I ask that you priortize community wellness and health first. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Maurina Cintron

Date Submitted: 11/19/2020 11:53 AM

Council File No: 17-0981

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, my name is Maurina Cintron. I am a Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (LA DAPA). I'm here to ask the PLUM committee to reconsider moving forward Council File 17-0981, otherwise known as the Restaurant Beverage Program. The argument of support is solely that of economic relief to businesses without considering the impact on the community and the surrounding residents. The ordinance applies only to bona fide sit-down restaurants and excludes nightclubs, bars, and liquor stores. Although it was meant to support jobs and businesses in Los Angeles, RBP is perpetuating higher alcohol densities within communities, specifically those of color. This is why we are here to ask the PLUM committee to reconsider moving forward Restaurant Beverage Program (CF #17-0891).