

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Independent Hospitality Coalition  
**Date Submitted:** 06/25/2021 07:16 PM  
**Council File No:** 17-0981  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please find the letter submitted on behalf of the Independent Hospitality Coalition.



**Los Angeles City Council**  
**200 N Spring St.**  
**Los Angeles, CA, 90012**  
*Via Email*

June 25, 2021

**Re: Restaurant Beverage Program (CF: [17-0981](#))**

Dear City Councilmembers:

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) represents over 1,200 members made up of local food service business operators and employees within the Los Angeles area. We were created to provide a voice and representation for our workforce and essential businesses that are engrained in Los Angeles' local economy.

We are writing in support of **Item 25** (CF: [17-0981](#)) on the agenda for Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, that would establish a **Restaurant Beverage Program** (RBP), an administrative process for the onsite consumption of alcohol incidental to a restaurant, subject to a set of eligibility criteria, performance standards, and enforcement procedures. The creation of RBP would help businesses who need it most – the small restaurant businesses that cannot afford a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the extreme financial burden and lengthy time historically associated with the CUP process, which typically requires the hiring of an expeditor to navigate the cumbersome process (average \$27,000 and 12-18 months).

**RBP is the remedy that small restaurant businesses have long needed.**

The IHC would also like to voice our support for the proposed amendments from the Economic Development and Jobs Committee. These amendments provide a strong framework for the RBP, establish an opt-in process for Council Offices that help take the community into consideration, and they benefit both small businesses and residents. Small and new businesses, especially restaurants, are still recovering from the COVID-19 emergency and subsequent stay-at-home, which have presented significant financial challenges. Alcohol sales provide a substantial portion of restaurants' revenue and often make or break their viability as a business. The RBP has the ability to economically help small restaurant businesses particularly now in the wake of recovery.

Cities such as Santa Monica, Burbank, Pasadena and Beverly Hills **already allow** template approvals for restaurants who wish to serve alcohol. These template approvals have not increased the detriment to quality of life by allowing these programs. Los Angeles needs to be part of their efforts to make the City a more business-friendly economy, especially for small businesses who are trying to recover from the pandemic.

Additionally, post-Covid impacts on job loss are inclusive of city staff processing these types of applications. City budget cuts have forced several community development staff members into early retirement and work furloughs. We need to consider new ways to make our great city work better and more efficient. We must be the example in executing a more sustainable future. Based on city data, 90% of CUBs for restaurants are already approved with many of the template conditions proposed by this ordinance. Let's prioritize city staff for the rebuilding and bettering of Los Angeles rather than processing applications approved so often. Let's prioritize our small business community.

Los Angeles restaurants need your help! We urge Council to pass Item 25 and establish the RBP as soon as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Navarrette', with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Eddie Navarrette  
IHC Advocacy Committee Chair  
[eddie@fedesignandconsulting.com](mailto:eddie@fedesignandconsulting.com)

**About IHC**

*The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) is a coalition of California hospitality workers whose purpose is to provide representation for our growing workforce and essential businesses, creating awareness of our role in the economic fabric of society. Our mission is to have a seat at the table to help shape policy and legitimize our crucial impact on communities and cities throughout California. More information can be found here:*  
<https://www.independenthospitality.org/>

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kate Bartolo

**Date Submitted:** 06/30/2021 09:24 AM

**Council File No:** 17-0981

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: Restaurant Beverage Program, June 30, 2021, Council Agenda item #25, CF 17-0981 Dear Council members, Council and Planning Staff, Issue: NEW INFORMATION: There appears to be a discrepancy between the EDJ Committee Report and the proposed EDJ Amendments. Per the EDJ Committee Report, the provision that beer and wine may only be served during the first year, is limited to restaurants in the proposed Council-designated “alcohol sensitive use zones”. Recommendation: Clarify that the one-year beer and wine restriction applies solely to new restaurants in the afore-referenced “sensitive use zones”. Allow existing restaurants with ABC Type 47 licenses (outside the new Council-designated “sensitive use zones”) to utilize the RFP to meet their existing CUB renewal requirements. Reasoning: Allowing restaurants with ABC Type 47 licenses to access RBP would save significant time and money, when they most need help. They have already gone through the City’s costly, rigorous CUB review process, including a public hearing. They already paid the six figure cost of ABC Type 47 licenses. Note: all other RBP restrictions would apply, including that a restaurant would be ineligible if there were five previous documented complaints. Thank you for your consideration. Kate Bartolo

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Juarez

**Date Submitted:** 06/30/2021 09:59 AM

**Council File No:** 17-0981

**Comments for Public Posting:** The California Restaurant Association (CRA) supports the Restaurant Beverage Program with the proposed amendments made in the Economic Development and Jobs Committee. At the height of the pandemic, approximately 30% of all restaurants in CA were either temporarily or permanently shut down, and 900,000 restaurant workers were either laid-off or furloughed. The Restaurant Beverage Program will play a crucial role in our local restaurants survival as we continue to recover. The Restaurant Beverage Program will create another potential source of revenue for local restaurants which will lead to the hiring of more workers. The development of the Restaurant Beverage Program has been in the works for over 4 years, there is no better time than now to have this program take effect. For these reasons I urge an aye vote on item 25 in today's agenda. Thank you,

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alejandra Estrada

**Date Submitted:** 06/30/2021 10:59 AM

**Council File No:** 17-0981

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello my name is Alejandra Estrada. I am speaking as a member of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance and will be making a general public comment on council agenda item 25 file 17-0981. Supporting the amendments made at the Planning and Land Use Management committee, I would like to emphasize the necessity to lower the number of complaints required for a review and the request that one “criminal” complaint be considered a justifiable reason to require an immediate review, meaning that a criminal complaint such as assault, homicide and drug trafficking should warrant immediate review. We also further request that the term criminal be added to the amendment. In lowering the threshold of complaints and reviewing those with criminal complaints, you are able to heighten the voices of the community and therefore focus on how this ordinance truly impacts the communities you represent. As advocates of the community we stress the importance of making these amendments.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ruth Hollman

**Date Submitted:** 06/30/2021 12:27 PM

**Council File No:** 17-0981

**Comments for Public Posting:** Alcoholism kills more people than opioid overdoses. Studies show that when alcohol access in areas go up, so do alcoholism and deaths related to alcoholism. Fewer and fewer Los Angelenos drink alcohol. Please restrict the number of alcohol-serving establishments in the City of Los Angeles. This will give a better quality of life to all and fewer tragedies to those effected by alcoholism.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Victor DeAlba

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2021 02:54 PM

**Council File No:** 17-0981

**Comments for Public Posting:** Good afternoon honorable councilmembers My name is Victor DeAlba and I am with Social Model Recovery Systems, a non-profit human services organization. I am here on behalf of our members. We acknowledge that the amendments made to this program are an attempt to address community concern, they simply do not go far enough to protect community members across the City of LA. Facilitating access to alcohol is not good public policy and is a threat to overall public health during this pandemic which has seen a spike in drinking and substance abuse. Surely, there are other ways to help restaurants in need that do not include increasing alcohol availability in communities that already struggle with overconcentration. Our concerns included in our November 2020 letter submitted alongside the Community Coalition are still relevant and reflect community members that have worked tirelessly to protect and support their neighborhoods. This program still restricts community input on land-use matters. Protections are needed to mitigate problems that will inevitably result and dedicated resources to monitor and respond to community concerns are a priority, especially in areas with high concentrations of alcohol. Moreover, a provisional status in all areas of the city should be maintained until a public hearing is held.