

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 19-0229-S2
Comments for Public Posting: Please post this letter from SEIU Local 721 in support of the fast food ordinance to the council file 19-0229-S2.



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Member Connection (877) 721-4968

March 23, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
201 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 19-0229-S2

Dear Councilmembers,

I am reaching out on behalf of SEIU Local 721 and the more than 100,000 public sector workers, who help keep Los Angeles healthy, secure and clean. I want to voice our unwavering support of the Fast Food Fair Work Ordinance and urge you to prioritize voting on this ordinance so the 50,000 fast food cooks and cashiers in Los Angeles have the tools they need to make their workplaces safe and fair.

When our members leave their hospital, library or court house to take their lunch break they don't want to worry that the workers rights are being violated or that they are too afraid to speak up about unsanitary conditions. Our members want to make sure the City they help run, is committed to empowering working people to speak up and hold their bosses accountable when our laws are violated.

Unfortunately, right now the fast food workforce which is overwhelmingly powered by women, POC and immigrants endure violations of their rights by their employers and unconstitutional attacks by our federal government. In fact, According to a survey of fast food workers, 88 percent of those surveyed **don't know how to protect themselves** from wage theft, sexual harassment and dangerous working conditions. It absolutely shouldn't be that way.

The Fast Food Fair Work ordinance offers solutions to these abuses that benefit fast food workers *and* responsible employers. It would require an annual full day, in-person Know Your Rights training by an independent, trusted third party; offer protection from constantly changing schedules; and require paid time off so workers can attend the training and have time with family and take care of personal needs.

The Fast Food industry can afford the reasonable requirements under the ordinance, but instead of reigning in unscrupulous owners they are running a multi-million campaign to stop the ordinance. Fast food is thriving in Los Angeles. Since April 2024, when the fast food minimum wage rose to \$20 an hour, the fast food restaurant count in LA County is up 6.2%. That is more than double the increase in fast food restaurants for the same period in the rest of the U.S., which was only 2.7%.

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Our union fundamentally believes in the need to lift all working families because we understand that our strength as workers is grounded in our ability to rise together. We firmly believe that the Fast Food Fair Work law can be a transformative force. By guaranteeing workers training on workplace rights, predictable scheduling and paid personal time off, Los Angeles has the opportunity to lead in empowering fast food workers and improving their lives, alongside their families, customers, and communities.

Now is the time for Los Angeles to strengthen and empower working people's ability to stand up for themselves and push back against powerful bullies who care more about their bottom line than community good.

Sincerely,

Lilianna Oustinovskaya
Member Advocate
SEIU Local 721