

Communication from Public

Name: Protect LA Restaurants

Date Submitted: 08/10/2026 03:49 PM

Council File No: 19-0229-S2

Comments for Public Posting: The attached letter is for public posting.



August 10, 2026

TO: Members, Los Angeles City Council

RE: Stand with Diverse Small Business Owners – STOP the Costly Restaurant Ordinance (CF: 19-0229-S2)

Dear Mayor Bass and Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

We respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council to stand with Los Angeles family-owned local restaurants and **REJECT the Costly Restaurant Ordinance**. Los Angeles restaurants are already struggling to stay in business with rising operating costs. The Ordinance would impose unnecessary, costly mandates on local restaurants – further burdening small businesses, jeopardizing jobs, and increasing food costs for LA families struggling to make ends meet. **Workers don't support it, and small businesses and consumers can't afford it.**

- **The Ordinance imposes costly new burdens on Los Angeles restaurant owners – jeopardizing their very existence.** Since the \$20 fast food minimum wage took effect, more than 1,150 restaurants have shut down in the City of Los Angeles. The Ordinance would lead to even higher, unsustainable costs for LA restaurants and could be the final straw that forces many more restaurants out of business. **Nearly 60% of California's restaurants are owned by people of color and 50% are owned by women. This costly Ordinance unfairly targets diverse owned small business and the communities they invest in.**
- **The Ordinance is misaligned with worker preferences and creates serious privacy concerns.** A recent [Pepperdine University survey](#) found that **more than 70% of LA fast food workers oppose** the proposed full-day, off-site, training program and instead prefer flexible convenient training. Further workers have legitimate interest in protecting their personal information from unnecessary government and third-party access. The Ordinance would require employers to disclose sensitive information to outside entities, creating serious privacy risks amid heightened immigration enforcement. Nearly three in four workers express concerns about sharing personal

information with unaffiliated third-parties, and **79.5% of workers trust employer-provided or employer selected trainers** to provide accurate, unbiased information about workplace rights while only **13.1%** trust a government agency, and **fewer than 5%** trust an outside organization (**4.3%**) or labor union (**3.1%**).

- **The Ordinance would increase food costs even higher for LA families already struggling.** The \$20/hour minimum wage law for fast food workers has forced local restaurants to [increase food prices by 20% in Los Angeles](#) so they can stay in businesses. The Ordinance would further drive-up food prices for families already struggling with a high cost of living. This would **be especially harmful to low-income families who depend on affordable, convenient food options.**
- **The Ordinance is unnecessary and duplicative.** California law already requires local restaurant owners to provide every employee with [extensive notices of their rights and training](#). Further, AB 1228 established the [statewide Fast Food Council](#) charged with developing minimum standards for training, worker protections, health, safety, and wages for fast-food workers. It makes no sense for LA to pass a duplicative and potentially conflicting city ordinance that would hurt local restaurant owners when the Legislature has already created a framework to establish fast food industry workplace standards.

The overwhelming majority of LA's 1,600+ quick-service restaurants are independent small businesses locally owned by people of color, women and immigrants. **The Costly Restaurant Ordinance would unfairly single out an industry that has long served as a proven pathway to business ownership for minority entrepreneurs.**

Now is not the time to pile additional and unnecessary cost burdens on LA small businesses. Los Angeles restaurants can't survive additional costly mandates. **We strongly urge you to REJECT the Costly Restaurant Ordinance.**

Sincerely,

Lily Rocha, CEO
Latino Restaurant Association

Salena Pryor, President
Black Small Business Association of California

Jeff Hanscom, VP of State & Local Government Relations
International Franchise Association

Lily Rocha, President
Latino Food Industry Association

Dennis Huang, Executive Director & CEO
Asian Business Association of Los Angeles

Maria S. Salinas, President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Stuart Waldman, President & CEO
Los Angeles County Business Federation

Marian Jocz, Executive Director
United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley

Jot Condie, President & CEO
California Restaurant Association

Julian Canete, President & CEO
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Mike Whatley, VP of State Affairs & Grassroots Advocacy
National Restaurant Association

Johnnise Foster-Downs, VP of Public Policy
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce

Olivia E. Rios, Director of Operations & Programs
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce

Angela Gibson-Shaw, President & CEO
Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC)

Jessica Yasukochi, Chief Operating Officer
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Roberto C. Arnold, Chairman & Founder
Multicultural Business Alliance

Faith Bautista, President & CEO
National Diversity Coalition

Brooke Armour Spiegel, Executive Vice President
California Business Roundtable

Tricia La Belle, President
Greater Los Angeles Hospitality Association

Roberto C. Arnold, Chairman & Founder
Multicultural Business Alliance

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Los Angeles
Urban League



Los Angeles



Western Region



COMMUNITY REPOWER
MOVEMENT



LAX Chapter



San Fernando Valley



Santa Monica
Venice



San Pedro
Wilmington
Palos Verdes



Beverly Hills
Hollywood



Watts

August 10, 2026

RE: Costly Restaurant Ordinance – OPPOSE ([CF: 19-0229-S2](#))

Dear Mayor Bass and Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the undersigned civil rights leaders, we write to express our strong opposition to the Costly Restaurant Ordinance targeting local restaurants in the City of Los Angeles. This ordinance will place additional, costly and unnecessary burdens on local restaurant owners – the majority of which are owned by people of color and women. This far-reaching ordinance is coming at a time when local restaurant owners are struggling to survive the costs associated with the state's \$20/hour minimum wage for fast food workers and rising operating costs. These pressures have led to many small businesses struggling and food prices up at local restaurants by 20% in the City of Los Angeles, impacting our entire community. These businesses are facing increasing economic pressure and multiple diverse-owned businesses have been forced to close.

To be clear, we support the state's passage of AB 1228 which provided fast food workers with a meaningful wage increase and established the nation's first statewide Fast Food Council to evaluate and strengthen workplace standards, and SB 294 which requires employers to notify their workers of their workplace rights related to immigration enforcement and labor protections.

But this Costly Restaurant Ordinance would undermine the state's historic progress and create significant hardships for diverse business owners in LA – unfairly singling out an industry that has long served as a proven pathway to business ownership for a diversity of entrepreneurs.

We have received serious concerns from family-owned businesses, citing that this ordinance would be the final straw that forces many of them to close their doors for good. Already in Los Angeles over 1,100 restaurants have closed since AB 1228 went into effect. We cannot allow one of the strongholds of minority business ownership to be attacked by adding more costly, duplicative provisions that unfairly single out these businesses.

Media reports show that fast food workers are being laid off, employee hours are being cut, local restaurants are closing, and those that remain have been forced to raise their prices. These impacts are

felt most acutely by low-income and disadvantaged families struggling with California's high cost of living.

Further, this proposed training program puts the workers it's intended to help at risk of privacy violations. Requiring disclosure of employee names, contact information, attendance records, or other identifying data to third parties raises serious legal concerns and may infringe upon employees' privacy rights. A [recent survey](#) of 1,246 Los Angeles fast food workers found three in four individuals had concerns with their personal information being shared with outside organizations. The LA City Council cannot put immigrant and minority communities at risk when their personal information is being weaponized against them by federal enforcement agencies.

Many local restaurant owners have dedicated their lives and savings to purchasing and operating their restaurants. That's why they make great efforts to support their workers, give back to their communities, and help extend opportunities to others. As expected, many of their stores are in communities of color, providing career advancement training, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and scholarship opportunities for people in our communities who may not otherwise have them.

Now is not the time to pile on additional unnecessary burdens on local minority small business owners. We should let the existing state law play out before jeopardizing local restaurants that are critical job creators and members of our community. Please, reject the Costly Restaurant Ordinance.

Sincerely,

California League of United Latin American Citizens
(CA LULAC)

Brotherhood Crusade

Los Angeles Urban League

National Action Network – Western Region

National Action Network – LAX Chapter

Community RePower Movement

NAACP Southwest Area

NAACP Los Angeles Branch

NAACP San Fernando Valley Branch

NAACP San Pedro-Wilmington-Palos Verdes
Branch

NAACP Santa Monica-Venice Branch

NAACP Watts Branch

NAACP Beverly Hills-Hollywood Branch