

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carlos Rubio

**Date Submitted:** 01/19/2026 08:43 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0029

**Comments for Public Posting:** Opposition to Proposed Parking Occupancy Tax Increase  
Teamsters Local 986 proudly upholds the core values of honesty, dignity, and respect that have guided our union for decades. We fight relentlessly for living wages, strong benefits, safe working conditions, and the economic security our members and their families deserve. We maintain a strong, longstanding partnership with the Los Angeles Parking Association and the parking operators they represent. These employers provide good jobs with competitive pay, solid benefits, and reliable livelihoods for our hardworking members in the parking industry. Downtown Los Angeles continues its recovery from the pandemic, facing persistent high office vacancies and changing work patterns. A proposed 50 percent increase in the Parking Occupancy Tax would severely strain our partners' ability to compete. This could force difficult choices that jeopardize wages, jobs, and benefits for our members while discouraging workers, students, visitors, and tourists from coming to urban centers. The result would harm both labor and the broader community we serve. This is a lose-lose proposition. We urge the City Council to reject the increase and instead pursue responsible alternatives, such as those supported by the Los Angeles Parking Association: stricter enforcement of the existing Parking Occupancy Tax ordinance on non-compliant lots to capture unrealized revenue, and collaboration on necessary state legislative changes for on-site enforcement on private lots. At Teamsters Local 986, we stand united for our members with integrity and determination. We call on you to choose thoughtful, accountable policy that honors labor, respects our community partners, and protects good jobs for the future. Please vote no on the proposed Parking Occupancy Tax increase. Carlos I. Rubio  
Teamsters Local 986 9900 Flower Street Bellflower, CA 90706

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hal Bastian

**Date Submitted:** 01/19/2026 03:52 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0029

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council Los Angeles City Hall? 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012  
RE: Council File Number 25-0029 Dear Councilmembers: I have worked in DTLA since 1994, lived here since 2001, and have been very involved with its Renaissance. The pandemic, people not returning to work, civil unrest, looting and other crimes have decimated our community. Please vote “no” on any proposed increase in the parking tax. We simply can’t take any more reasons for people not come to DTLA. Also, please get City employees back to the office. Then, you can encourage the private sector to do the same. Sincerely, Hal Bastian, President Hal Bastian Inc. Hal Bastian, Executive Managing Director Amalgamated Metropolitan Properties, Inc.  
Mobile: 213-440-0242 hal@halbastian.com 257 S Spring Street Suite 3K Los Angeles CA 90012 Cal DRE #00854666

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carmen Zella

**Date Submitted:** 01/19/2026 06:17 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0029

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to strongly urge you to vote AGAINST the proposed 50% increase to the Parking Occupancy Tax (POT) as you consider options to address the City's budget shortfall. Deterring access to parking in Downtown Los Angeles will have immediate and damaging consequences, particularly for public-facing activities such as cultural events, public art installations, and community programming. Even when events are free and accessible, the inability to park affordably becomes a significant barrier to attendance. Reduced access means fewer people on the streets, fewer visitors engaging with Downtown, and fewer opportunities for residents to reconnect with the City's cultural and civic core. At a time when Downtown Los Angeles urgently needs an economic and social boost, policies that discourage people from coming downtown will only deepen existing challenges. Fewer visitors directly impact struggling small businesses, restaurants, retailers, and creative organizations that rely on foot traffic to survive. Over time, lower activity leads to increased vacancies, diminished street presence, and heightened safety concerns, conditions that further erode public confidence and investment. Downtown Los Angeles is a major economic engine and financial contributor to the City at large. Weakening its recovery risks widening economic disparities and undermining long-term stability across Los Angeles. The parking industry already contributes significantly to the City's General Fund and remains one of the City's most consistent and transparent revenue sources. A drastic increase in the cost of parking will discourage residents, workers, and visitors from accessing the very urban areas that generate the majority of POT revenue. Now is not the time to implement policies that reduce access, suppress activity, and strain already fragile systems. Increasing the Parking Occupancy Tax will discourage engagement, harm businesses, reduce employment, and ultimately undermine the very recovery Downtown Los Angeles needs to thrive. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on the proposed increase to the Parking Occupancy Tax. This is not a responsible or sustainable approach to generating revenue for our City. Sincerely, Carmen Zella

1/19/2026

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Council File Number 25-0029**

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote **AGAINST** the proposed **50% increase to the Parking Occupancy Tax (POT)** as you consider options to address the City's budget shortfall.

Deterring access to parking in Downtown Los Angeles will have immediate and damaging consequences, particularly for public-facing activities such as cultural events, public art installations, and community programming. Even when events are free and accessible, the inability to park affordably becomes a significant barrier to attendance. Reduced access means fewer people on the streets, fewer visitors engaging with Downtown, and fewer opportunities for residents to reconnect with the City's cultural and civic core.

At a time when Downtown Los Angeles urgently needs an economic and social boost, policies that discourage people from coming downtown will only deepen existing challenges. Fewer visitors directly impact struggling small businesses, restaurants, retailers, and creative organizations that rely on foot traffic to survive. Over time, lower activity leads to increased vacancies, diminished street presence, and heightened safety concerns, conditions that further erode public confidence and investment.

Downtown Los Angeles is a major economic engine and financial contributor to the City at large. Weakening its recovery risks widening economic disparities and undermining long-term stability across Los Angeles.

The parking industry already contributes significantly to the City's General Fund and remains one of the City's most consistent and transparent revenue sources. A drastic increase in the cost of parking will discourage residents, workers, and visitors from accessing the very urban areas that generate the majority of POT revenue.

Now is not the time to implement policies that reduce access, suppress activity, and strain already fragile systems. Increasing the Parking Occupancy Tax will discourage engagement, harm businesses, reduce employment, and ultimately undermine the very recovery Downtown Los Angeles needs to thrive.

I respectfully urge you to **vote NO on the proposed increase to the Parking Occupancy Tax**. This is not a responsible or sustainable approach to generating revenue for our City.

Sincerely,  
Carmen Zella

Owner NOW Art LLC



