

Communication from Public

Name: Ana Grande

Date Submitted: 06/24/2025 07:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0557

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Program for Torture Victims (PTV) and our over 400 survivors of torture, I am writing to share our concerns about the proposed motion to consider exclusion zones around restaurants and local businesses in the City of Los Angeles. Exclusion zones have unintended consequences that ultimately harm small businesses, jeopardize the livelihood of drivers, and negatively impact the economy of a city. This policy risks harming LA restaurants and merchants during an already challenging economic environment for small businesses. Restaurants and local merchants rely on delivery as a vital part of their revenue stream. These changes could come at a particularly high cost for delivery workers: more effort to complete each delivery means fewer deliveries completed per hour and less overall take-home pay. Clients like ours, who are survivors are the cruelest conditions imaginable, depend on the gig-economy to make a living. Over 80% of our clients have uncontrolled PTSD, 77% have anxiety, and 90% are triggered by long waits or people in uniforms. Survivors who have chosen to become drivers for the gig-economy have the freedom to develop their own hours, maintain minimal contact with strangers, and as importantly – maintain their counseling sessions while putting food on their table and a roof over their head. If delivery drivers cannot pick up from a merchant closest to their location because it falls inside a potential exclusion zone, delivery drivers, our clients, will likely need to travel farther to pick up the order, extending the overall time it takes for LA residents to receive their deliveries. Implementing exclusion zones on a large scale is untested and may not be feasible. This motion could have unintended consequences that worsen the very issues it is trying to address. Requiring delivery drivers to travel farther to reach pickup locations will likely increase vehicle miles traveled, contributing to more traffic congestion, emissions, and local neighborhood pollution, directly hindering the city's stated climate action goals and efforts to reduce environmental harm. For all these reasons, we urge the City Council to reconsider this motion and instead work directly and collaboratively with all stakeholders—including third party platforms and local businesses—to find solutions that are fit for each community, support economic opportunity and mobility, rather than introducing barriers that

could hurt Los Angeles.



PROGRAM *for* TORTURE VICTIMS

Program for Torture Victims assists the courageous survivors of state-sponsored torture and persecution who have stood up for freedom, equality, and human dignity. Since 1980, PTV has helped new U.S. refugees from over 70 countries heal their physical and psychological wounds and start a second life here in California.

June 24, 2025

Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

On behalf of Program for Torture Victims (PTV) and our over 400 survivors of torture, I am writing to share our concerns about the proposed motion to consider exclusion zones around restaurants and local businesses in the City of Los Angeles. Exclusion zones have unintended consequences that ultimately harm small businesses, jeopardize the livelihood of drivers, and negatively impact the economy of a city.

This policy risks harming LA restaurants and merchants during an already challenging economic environment for small businesses. Restaurants and local merchants rely on delivery as a vital part of their revenue stream. These changes could come at a particularly high cost for delivery workers: more effort to complete each delivery means fewer deliveries completed per hour and less overall take-home pay. Clients like ours, who are survivors are the cruelest conditions imaginable, depend on the gig-economy to make a living. Over 80% of our clients have uncontrolled PTSD, 77% have anxiety, and 90% are triggered by long waits or people in uniforms. Survivors who have chosen to become drivers for the gig-economy have the freedom to develop their own hours, maintain minimal contact with strangers, and as importantly – maintain their counseling sessions while putting food on their table and a roof over their head. If delivery drivers cannot pick up from a merchant closest to their location because it falls inside a potential exclusion zone, delivery drivers, our clients, will likely need to travel farther to pick up the order, extending the overall time it takes for LA residents to receive their deliveries.

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For all these reasons, we urge the City Council to reconsider this motion and instead work directly and collaboratively with all stakeholders— including third party platforms and local businesses—to find solutions that are fit for each community, support economic opportunity and mobility, rather than introducing barriers that could hurt Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Ana Grande
Executive Director