

MOTION

The restaurant industry is an essential and integral part of the City's economy. This industry employs thousands of workers in the City and County of Los Angeles. In addition, millions of dollars in tax revenue to the City are generated by the restaurant industry.

As a major source of employment in the city, restaurants are a major economic engine. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the greater Los Angeles area employed approximately 400,000 to 500,000 individuals in the restaurant and food service sector.

Therefore, with thousands of City residents employed in the restaurant industry, it is of utmost importance and in the interest of public policy, that any impediments, such as but not limited to the installation of restaurant equipment be addressed and streamlined by the Department of Building and Safety.

The current system for installing restaurant equipment and related scope of works needs improvement, as even the installation of espresso machines and air fryers requires permits with scheduled inspections.

In an effort to prevent any loss of tax revenue to the city and to make sure that restaurants continue to thrive, as well as to support struggling restaurants, improvement is needed in the inspection and permitting process for restaurant equipment and related scope of works.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with recommendations to improve the existing inspection and permitting process for restaurant equipment and related scope of works, as follows:

1. Feasibility and ability to expand virtual inspections for all types of commercial equipment and related inspections - many installations require visual verification of proper installation, without need for further detail.
2. Expand the self-certification program from residential to include commercial contractors. This would allow LADBS to explore including other contractors in the process of pulling permits for work they are qualified to perform for given levels of experience.
3. Ability for single inspectors to be introduced for continuity of projects, to avoid the change in requests between inspectors.
4. Clarification of like-for-like equipment, to clarify when equipment can be deemed similar enough to be replaced without inspections. e.g. similar water pressure and capacity of water related items.

PRESENTED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

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JUL 30 2025

ORIGINAL