

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 05:02 PM

Council File No: 19-0229-S2

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Protect LA Restaurants coalition, I would like to submit the attached letter in opposition to the Costly Restaurant Ordinance (CF: 19-0229-S2). Our coalition is in strong opposition to this policy.



Los Angeles
Urban League



Los Angeles



Western Region



COMMUNITY REPOWER
MOVEMENT



Los Angeles Chapter



San Fernando Valley



Santa Monica
Venice



San Pedro
Wilmington
Palos Verdes



Beverly Hills
Hollywood



Watts

March 19, 2025

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 new \$20/hour minimum wage for fast food workers, food prices are up at local restaurants by [14.5%](#) and many small businesses are still trying to recover from significant losses resulting from the recent wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

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

We have received serious concerns from minority small business owners, citing that this ordinance would be the final straw that forces many of them to close their doors for good. We cannot allow one of the strongholds of minority business ownership to be attacked in this fashion.

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.**

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,

Jacob Sandoval, State Director
**California League of United Latin American Citizens
(CA LULAC)**

Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO
Brotherhood Crusade

Cynthia Mitchell-Heard, President & CEO
Los Angeles Urban League

Rev. Jonathan E. Moseley, Western Regional Director
National Action Network – Western Region

Lori Condinus, President
National Action Network – Los Angeles Chapter

Reverend Mac Shorty, Founder
Community RePower Movement

Darrell Goode, Area Director
NAACP Southwest Area

Latricia T. Mitchell, President
NAACP Los Angeles Branch

Dr. James Thomas, President
NAACP San Fernando Valley Branch

Dr. Cheyenne Bryant, President
**NAACP San Pedro-Wilmington-Palos Verdes
Branch**

Darrell Goode, President
NAACP Santa Monica-Venice Branch

Carolyn Johnson, President
NAACP Watts Branch

Ron Hasson, President
NAACP Beverly Hills-Hollywood Branch