

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 20-0380-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter of support for item (2) 20-0380-S2



Independent Hospitality Coalition

Via Email

October 1st, 2023

Planning And Land Use Management Committee

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair

Councilmember John S. Lee, Vice Chair

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Councilmember Heather Hutt

Re: Item (2) Support for 20-0380-S2 Continuing Emergency Planning Ordinance

Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members,

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) represents over 1,400 members of local food service operators and employees within the greater Los Angeles area. We were created to provide a voice and representation for our workforce and essential businesses ingrained in the local economy of Los Angeles.

We are writing in strong support of **item # (2)**, [CF 20-0380-S2](#) an additional 2 years extension of the Emergency Planning Ordinance under **CF 20-0380-S1**. Some of the largest barriers for food service establishments in our most urban areas have been parking and the red tape around permitting a new or existing business. Barriers on building local business community resources that inspire walkability and social togetherness. The Emergency Planning Ordinance has significantly helped take down these barriers by prioritizing people over cars. By giving new hope to a business that may not have existed before due to archaic regulations that have not been updated in several decades. Archaic regulations that do not reflect the social and environmental landscape we face today. Recent events around the world have proven that climate change is very real. If we do not do more with less through adaptive reuse of existing buildings, and make changes in our local policy to assist in reducing carbon emissions then we hold grave responsibility as part of the problem.

Housing in Los Angeles is an emergency situation that requires emergency policy like this ordinance. It supports new housing development by giving opportunities for business to exist in its role being the backbone of the community. Providing 'first time in life jobs', and 'second chance at life jobs'; providing cleaning of our sidewalks, fixing of the broken windows, breathing presence in our neighborhoods for a safe walk home.

Further, in 2020, the EWDD Restaurant Reboot working group, convened under [CE 20-0499](#), issued recommendations to streamline certain City of L.A. regulatory processes that impose significant costs on small business building projects but provide little value to the public. The idea was that by trimming the cost of inefficient regulation, the City could provide a much-needed economic boost to thousands of small businesses who are still reeling from the pandemic without spending a dime of public money. The working group found the LADBS estimates that as much as 30% of Development Services staff time is spent navigating issues surrounding compliance with Zoning Code parking requirements. Much of this work results simply in the granting of existing conditions at great cost to the applicant and the City. The cost to the application forms a major barrier to the reuse of existing commercial spaces and causes many businesses to start operations at an otherwise avoidable economic deficit. More and more cities have eliminated minimum parking requirements from an increasing array of projects with significant benefits to economic development, equity, and environmental sustainability.

The Emergency Ordinance has been extremely helpful. Many small businesses today are reeling from the impacts of Covid, crime, environmental changes, increased costs on everything, and of course, housing. We value your support in the continuance of this vital ordinance.

Thank you for hearing the voice of the [Independent Hospitality Community](#). We are dedicated to serving our community by working with government agencies on reasonable progress. The food service business community suffered the most job losses compared to any other business type, changing the way we must forge ahead to survive. Making processes like these easier to navigate will give us confidence that our elected officials are hearing us and serving us – so we may ALL be the best active citizens in our city.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ch. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.

Eddie Navarrette
Executive Director
eddie@IHCLA.org

About IHC

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) is a coalition of California hospitality workers whose purpose is to provide representation for our growing workforce and essential businesses, creating awareness of our role in the economic fabric of society. Our mission is to have a seat at the table to help shape policy and legitimize our crucial impact on communities and cities throughout California. More information is available on our site [here](#).