

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/25/2024 03:52 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.



September 25, 2024

TO: Members, Los Angeles City Council

RE: Stand with Minority Small Business Owners – REJECT the Costly Restaurant Ordinance (CF: 19-0229-S2).

Dear Mayor Bass and Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

We respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council to stand with Los Angeles family-owned local restaurants and **REJECT the Costly Restaurant Ordinance**. Los Angeles restaurants are already struggling to stay in business. The Ordinance would impose unnecessary, costly mandates on local restaurants – further burdening small businesses, jeopardizing jobs, and increasing food costs for LA families struggling to make ends meet.

- **The Ordinance imposes costly new burdens on Los Angeles restaurant owners – jeopardizing their very existence.** A recent analysis found that [AB 1228 \(Holden\)](#)'s new \$20/hour minimum wage for fast food workers is projected to cost local restaurant owners \$250,000 per restaurant annually. The Ordinance would lead to even higher, unsustainable costs for LA restaurants and could be the final straw that forces many restaurants out of business. Nearly 60% of California's restaurants are owned by people of color and 50% are owned by women. This costly Ordinance unfairly targets minority small business owners and the communities they invest in.
- **The Ordinance would further increase food costs for LA families already struggling.** Since California passed its new \$20/hour minimum wage law for fast food workers, local restaurants have been forced to [increase food prices by 10% overall](#). The Ordinance would further drive-up food prices for families already struggling with a high cost of living. This would **be especially harmful to low-income families who depend on affordable, convenient food options.**

- **The Ordinance is unnecessary and duplicative.** California law already requires local restaurant owners to provide every employee with [extensive notices of their rights and training](#). Further, AB 1228 just established a [new statewide Fast Food Council](#) **charged with developing minimum standards for training**, worker protections, health, safety, and wages for fast-food workers. It makes no sense for LA to pass a duplicative and potentially conflicting city ordinance that would hurt local restaurant owners before the Fast Food Council is fully implemented to benefit workers.

The overwhelming majority of LA's 1,500+ quick-service restaurants are independent small businesses locally owned by people of color, women and immigrants. **The Costly Restaurant Ordinance would unfairly single out an industry that has long served as a proven pathway to business ownership for minority entrepreneurs.**

Now is not the time to pile additional and unnecessary cost burdens on LA small businesses. Los Angeles restaurants can't survive additional costly mandates. **We strongly urge you to REJECT the Costly Restaurant Ordinance.**

Sincerely,

Lily Rocha, CEO
Latino Restaurant Association

Jot Condie, President & CEO
California Restaurant Association

Salena Pryor, President
Black Small Business Association of California

Julian Canete, President & CEO
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Jeff Hanscom, VP of State & Local Government Relations
International Franchise Association

Mike Whatley, VP of State Affairs & Grassroots Advocacy
National Restaurant Association

Lily Rocha, President
Latino Food Industry Association

Johnnise Foster-Downs, VP of Public Policy
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce

Dennis Huang, Executive Director & CEO
Asian Business Association of Los Angeles

Olivia E. Rios, Director of Operations & Programs
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce

Maria S. Salinas, President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Angela Gibson-Shaw, President & CEO
Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC)

Tracy Hernandez, Founding CEO
Los Angeles County Business Federation

Tricia La Belle, President
Greater Los Angeles Hospitality Association

Marian Jocz, Executive Director
United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley

Stuart Waldman, President
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Faith Bautista, President & CEO
National Diversity Coalition

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/25/2024 03:54 PM

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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

September 25, 2024

RE: Costly Restaurant Ordinance – OPPOSE (CF: 19-0229-S2)

Dear Mayor Bass and Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

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 10% and many small businesses are still trying to recover from significant losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To be clear, we support the state's passage of AB 1228 which provided fast food workers with meaningful wage increases for fast food workers 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