

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jason Hoving

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**Council File No:** 18-1007

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Jason, and I live in the City of Long Beach. I urge the City Council to support the Good Food Zone Policy implementation and work with EWDD and Council District 9 in creating an appropriate, equitable plan to implement this innovative policy and program. We need this policy to be implemented now more than ever. Food security is critical to combating poverty in a broader sense, because the need for food is so all-consuming that it can prevent those in need from obtaining long-term support such as housing, employment, or education. I also care about this because many members of my community have been impacted by historic food divestment which has resulted in health issues like heart disease, stroke, and death. These issues have been compounded in the wake of COVID-19. Small businesses offering food options need support to offer a living wage and improve the healthy options they offer in their stores' inventory. When implemented, the Good Food Zone will provide economic opportunity for small good food businesses and ensure access to healthy food options in communities experiencing food apartheid. Thank you.