

## **Communication from Public**

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**Council File No:** 20-0380-S2  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see the attached letter

Via Email

February 10th, 2025

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**Re: Agenda Item # 6**

**Support for 20-0380-S2** Parking Time Limits / Temporary Regulatory Relief / Local Businesses / Emergency Order Expiration / Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 16.02.1

Honorable City Council Members,

As a small business owner of a neighborhood business, I strongly support **Item # 6 CF 20-0380-S2**—an additional **year extension** of the Emergency Planning Ordinance under **CF 20-0380-S1**. However, I urge you to go further:

**Recommendation: Make These Authorizations Permanent**

The allowances granted under this ordinance should be permanently adopted for the following critical reasons:

1. **No Major Negative Impacts:** Since its implementation, these allowances have not resulted in significant adverse effects, proving their success.
2. **Economic Development & Street Activation:** This ordinance fosters walkable, thriving commercial corridors, reinforcing local economic growth.
3. **Small Businesses Are in Crisis Due to the L.A. Fires:** The devastating **January 7th fires** have left businesses with financial and structural hardships. Removing barriers to reopening and growth is crucial to their survival.
4. **Avoid Overburdening the Building Department:** As the department shifts focus to fire-damaged properties, unnecessary permitting burdens on small businesses must be reduced.
5. **Preparing for the 2028 Olympics:** With the world coming to Los Angeles, we must create a business-friendly environment that supports a vibrant and accessible city.

**Why This Ordinance Matters**

For too long, **outdated parking and zoning regulations** have been among the largest barriers to small businesses in our most urban areas. The Emergency Planning Ordinance

has been a game-changer—**prioritizing people over cars, fostering walkability, and making it possible for businesses to exist where they otherwise could not.**

The **EWDD Restaurant Reboot Working Group (CF 20-0499)** identified that **up to 30% of LADBS Development Services staff time** is spent navigating outdated parking compliance requirements—often just to approve existing conditions. This unnecessary red tape creates an **economic burden that stifles business growth**, delays job creation, and wastes City resources. Many cities have already eliminated minimum parking requirements to **boost economic development, promote equity, and enhance sustainability**—Los Angeles must follow suit.

### **Small Businesses Are at a Breaking Point**

First and foremost, this ordinance provides a proven solution **without requiring additional City funding.**

One of the things I’ve always loved about Los Angeles is that it is a very progressive city, and many of you have been elected to push our city into a more progressive direction. At my small business, we regularly use our time, money and energy to fundraise and promote progressive causes and organizations in this city, and we are technically “for profit”. I’m asking you to keep Los Angeles progressing forward by removing these outdated regulations. In times of crises, you have proven that we can “remove the red tape” to make it easier for folks such as myself to operate and support our local economy. My question is, why is it hard in the first place?

Extending these allowances for **another year is a critical step, but making them permanent will provide lasting relief and long-term economic benefits.** We urge you to take decisive action and **remove these barriers once and for all.**

**Thank you for standing with L.A.’s small businesses.**

Sincerely,

**Zach Negin**  
Small Business Owner

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