

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marr Harris, Esq., LL.M.

**Date Submitted:** 02/17/2025 07:29 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0006-S55

**Comments for Public Posting:** February 17, 2025 Los Angeles City Council John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340 City Hall 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Public Comment in SUPPORT of the Ordinance to provide tax relief to local businesses impacted by the January 2025 wildfires for the February 18, 2025 Meeting – Agenda Item No. 37 Dear Council Members, On behalf of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, I strongly support Agenda Item No. 37, which proposes an ordinance to offer tax relief to local businesses severely affected by the January 2025 wildfires. By adding new Section 21.25.1 to Article 1 of Chapter II of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, this ordinance aims to alleviate the financial burdens faced by small businesses and foster economic recovery in our communities. Bet Tzedek is a non-profit legal aid organization dedicated to providing free legal services to low-income residents of Los Angeles. In 2016, we launched the Small Business Development Project, which aims to fortify the economic foundation of underserved communities by offering free legal assistance to low-to-moderate-income small business owners and entrepreneurs. Our focus encompasses women, disabled, veterans, immigrants, limited English-speaking, LGBTQ, and BIPOC business owners. Our records indicate that nearly 1,900 small businesses were within fire-affected zones, employing approximately 11,400 individuals. The devastation of the wildfires has led to the complete loss of many establishments, while the surviving companies are grappling with reduced customer traffic, exorbitant repair costs, insurance dilemmas, transportation issues, and declining sales. In Altadena, small companies face near-total collapse with displaced local families, ash covering the area, and many other challenges emerging from the fires. The cascading repercussions on workers and the wider community underscore the urgency of mitigating the fires' impact on small businesses. Addressing these economic hardships is vital to the overall recovery from the wildfire disaster. We earnestly appeal to the City Council to adopt Section 21.25.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, which would provide essential tax relief to the local businesses impacted by the January 2025 wildfires. Sincerely, Marr Harris, Esq., LL.M. Staff Attorney, Small Business Development Program Bet Tzedek Legal Services



February 17, 2025

Los Angeles City Council  
John Ferraro Council Chamber  
Room 340, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: *Public Comment in SUPPORT of the Ordinance to provide tax relief to local businesses impacted by the January 2025 wildfires for the February 18, 2025 Meeting – Agenda Item No. 37***

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, I am writing to express our strong support for Agenda Item No. 37, which proposes an ordinance to offer tax relief to local businesses severely affected by the January 2025 wildfires. This ordinance, by adding new Section 21.25.1 to Article 1 of Chapter II of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, aims to alleviate the financial burdens faced by small businesses and foster economic recovery in our communities.

Bet Tzedek is a non-profit legal aid organization dedicated to providing free legal services to low-income residents of Los Angeles. In 2016, we launched the Small Business Development Project, which aims to fortify the economic foundation of underserved communities by offering free legal assistance to low-to-moderate income small business owners and entrepreneurs. Our focus encompasses women, disabled, Veteran, immigrant, limited English speaking, LGBTQ, and BIPOC business owners.

Our records indicate that nearly 1,900 small businesses were situated within the fire-affected zones, employing approximately 11,400 individuals. The devastation of the wildfires has led to the complete loss of many establishments, while the surviving businesses are grappling with reduced customer traffic, exorbitant repair costs, insurance dilemmas, transportation issues, and declining sales. In Altadena, small businesses face near-total collapse with local families displaced, ash covering the area, and a myriad of other challenges emerging in the wake of the fires.

The cascading repercussions on workers and the wider community underscore the urgency of mitigating the fires' impact on small businesses. Addressing these economic hardships is vital to the overall recovery from the wildfire disaster.

We earnestly appeal to the City Council to adopt Section 21.25.1 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, providing essential tax relief to the local businesses stricken by the January 2025 wildfires.

Sincerely,

Tamara					Harris
Staff	Attorney,	Small	Business	Development	Program
Bet Tzedek Legal Services					