

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/06/2019 03:29 AM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to ask LA not to include hookah in any flavored tobacco ban. Hookah has been part of my community's culture for generations, and hookah has nothing to do with smoking cigarettes or vapes. If the City Council is concerned about vapes, I ask them to vote on vapes.

Communication from Public

Name: Nazim

Date Submitted: 11/15/2019 11:20 AM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to ask LA not to include hookah in any flavored tobacco ban. Hookah has been part of my community's social life for generations, and hookah has nothing to do with smoking cigarettes or vapes. If the City Council is concerned about vapes, I ask them to vote on vapes.

Communication from Public

Name: Eric McKandes

Date Submitted: 11/15/2019 11:28 AM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to ask LA not to include hookah in any flavored tobacco ban. Hookah has been part of my community's culture for generations, and hookah has nothing to do with smoking cigarettes or vapes. If the City Council is concerned about vapes, I ask them to vote on vapes.

Communication from Public

Name: Benjamin Salazar

Date Submitted: 11/15/2019 02:07 PM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: Hookah smoking is a social activity used for camaraderie and relationship building, and has nothing to do with the dangers of cigarette smoking or vaping that has afflicted the nations youth in recent times. I am writing to ask LA not to include hookah in any flavored tobacco ban. Hookah has been part of my community's culture for generations, and hookah has nothing to do with smoking cigarettes or vapes. If the City Council is concerned about vapes, I ask them to vote on vapes.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/22/2019 02:36 PM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: I am contacting you on behalf of the American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association (APCA) and the California Fuels and Convenience Alliance (CFCA). Our members include convenience stores, gas stations and liquor stores located throughout the City. Attached is a letter from our associations highlighting our concerns about the proposed ordinance.



November 7, 2019

Honorable David Ryu
Chair, Health Education Neighborhood, Parks, Arts & River Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles CA 90012

Re: Council File 18-1104, Flavored Tobacco

Dear Councilmember Ryu:

We write on behalf of the American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association (APCA), California Fuels and Convenience Alliance (CFCA) and the Korean American Grocers Association of Los Angeles (KAGRO). Collectively, we represent over half of the 4,500 licensed tobacco retailers in Los Angeles. Our members include convenience stores, gas stations and liquor stores located throughout the City.

The September 19 report from the City Attorney related to the above referenced Council Motion recommended the elimination all flavored tobacco products from licensed tobacco retailers. We oppose this sweeping sales ban as it eliminates an entire category of products from our stores despite the fact that flavored traditional tobacco products (cigarettes, chewing tobacco and cigars) are not attractive to youth.

Banning legal products at licensed retail would undermine the city's and the state's tobacco retail licensing program which has successfully limited youth access to tobacco, protected consumers from adulterated products, and given government enforcement tools. Moreover, local bans on tobacco products creates an illicit market. In localities with flavored tobacco bans, single menthol cigarettes are being sold illegally on the street for \$1.00 - \$2.00. That is an enormous profit margin driving illegal sales in those locales.

Tobacco sales are an important component to the overall viability of our businesses – not because we make a lot of money selling tobacco – we don't. Tobacco sales drive ancillary sales of gas, food and other items sold at our stores and gas stations. If we lose the ability to sell flavored tobacco products, our customers will go elsewhere to buy gas, food, and snacks – everything they currently buy in our stores.

According to a recent study funded by the California Department of Public Health¹ smoking prevalence for Los Angeles youth, like the rest of California, has reached a historical low. Only

¹ Zhu S-H, Zhuang YL, Lee J, Cole A, Braden K, Wolfson T, Gamst A (2019). *Tobacco use among high school students in Los Angeles County: Findings from the 2017-18 California*

1.7% of high school students in Los Angeles smoked cigarettes in 2017–18. The study noted that:

As far as the numerical goal for tobacco control is concerned, the prevalence for each of the combustible tobacco products among high school students in Los Angeles had dropped to the level accepted by many as an end-game number. There is cause for celebration.

Given this data and the high rate of compliance by licensed tobacco retailers, we ask that any city policy related to flavored tobacco sales ban exclude traditional tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, and products with FDA marketing approval. Taking these products off of our shelves will have a significant economic impact on our stores and drive sales out of licensed venues and into the illicit market.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments invite you or a member of your staff to visit one of our businesses in your district prior to the next public hearing on this issue so you can see first hand how all tobacco products are regulated and sold at licensed tobacco retailers in LA.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Sam Bayless, CFCA at 916.646.5999, ext. 977.

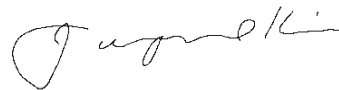
Sincerely,



Joe Johal
APCA
Chairman



Elizabeth Graham
CFCA
Interim Executive Director



Joongchil Kim
KAGRO SoCal Chapter
President

cc: LA City Council
LA City Clerk

Communication from Public

Name: ANDY Michael IBRAHIM

Date Submitted: 12/04/2019 06:59 PM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the flavor ban due to the fact that it has helped me and millions of adults to quite smoking cigarettes. We as adult use flavors and its not about the klids.. Its about us adults free choice to use whatever flavor we perfer.. Start doing your job with the enforcement and stop taking away our rights.. If you want to ban something ban cigarettes and flavored cigarettes or flavored alcohol..