

Communication from Public

Name: Eddie Navarrette
Date Submitted: 10/26/2020 01:22 PM
Council File No: 20-1074
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter.



Via Email

October 26, 2020

Seleta Reynolds
General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation
100 S. Main St., Room 10
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Seleta.reynolds@lacity.org

Re: Motion to fund and improve LA's AI Fresco Program
CF: [20-1263](#), [20-1074](#), and [20-1074-S1](#)

Dear Seleta Reynolds and LADOT Staff:

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) represents over 450 members made up of local food service business operators and employees within the Los Angeles area. We were created to provide a voice and representation for our workforce and essential businesses that are engrained in Los Angeles' local economy.

We are writing in support of the motion introduced to Council on September 30, 2020 ([Council File: 20-1263](#)) by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, seconded by Council President Nury Martinez, that instructs the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to (1) make any necessary changes to the AI Fresco Program to improve its efficiency, increase participants, and ensure CARES Act funds are allocated to the program; and (2) report back on methods to streamline the program for future participants.

As industry and policy leaders, IHC would like to voice our support for the City's AI Fresco program and Council's motions which provide more funding to this program. AI Fresco is currently one of the only lifelines our industry has to survive during these unprecedented times. Allowing restaurants to serve the City's residents outside also provides a stream of sales tax revenue for the City, confirming that this program's success is also a much-needed win for the City.

As independent small businesses, we don't have access to financing and funding for support like other large businesses have the ability to do, and we rely on the funding of AI Fresco, as well as the efficiency of this AI Fresco program. IHC is grateful that the motion directs CARES Act funds to this program and believe this funding is crucial to the success of AI Fresco. In addition to the motion, we would also like to support and

provide feedback to the report published by LADOT on October 5th, 2020 ([Council File: 20-1074-S1](#)). IHC recommends the department consider the following as you make changes to the program and improve the program's reach and efficiency:

- As discussed in LADOT's 10/15/2020 report, it is critical the **City extend the AI Fresco program to 2021**. Restaurants need predictability and this is our lifeline for small businesses and city economic vitality. Extending AI Fresco provides the City an opportunity to transform from **prioritizing cars to prioritizing people** while motivating **people to get out of cars** –a goal supported by many Councilmembers, organizations and residents.
- **Update or change planning codes** that would temporarily or permanently **remove parking requirements** to provide restaurants with more space to set up outdoor dining to serve more patrons while complying with COVID-19 social distancing requirements.
- **Establish a template design guideline** with safety measures included to the satisfaction of LADOT for private operators to construct their own parklets. This will alleviate the financial burden the City has taken to fund all current parklets for restaurants and allow operators the parklet opportunity other operators have already been granted. Further, this is a model adjacent municipalities already have in place (i.e. Santa Monica).
- Request LADOT to assess the feasibility of **temporary speed limit reductions in restaurant cluster areas** i.e. Sunset Junction (CD13) and Abbot Kinney (CD 11) to qualify additional areas for parklet construction currently not allowed due to high traffic zones. This would be similar to temporary speed limit reductions in construction zones during development projects.
- Request BOE to report back on ways the City could use the current AI Fresco permitting model to **replace the City's current permanent Sidewalk Seating Application process**. Once AI Fresco expires, restaurants will need a more practical way to permit seating on the sidewalk.
- **Request \$6,000,000 in CARES Act funds**, instead of the initial \$2,000,000, to fund the AI Fresco program. There are thousands of restaurants throughout Los Angeles that rely on outdoor dining to survive and who need more support from the City to provide safe areas for diners. This money can also be used to ensure AI Fresco participants have the necessary PPE to safely serve City residents, improve the efficiency of the program, and provide hundreds of restaurants throughout the City to open and stay open through the AI Fresco program.

In addition to IHC's recommendations above, our members have worked with countless design and construction teams to build-out outdoor infrastructure to accommodate outdoor dining that meets the City's COVID-19 Health and Safety requirements. If LADOT is interested in learning more about the process and costs associated with the

build-out, IHC would be willing to provide standard designs for installation of parklets and provide as much information to assist LADOT through this process.

IHC is a great resource that would love to work with the City and LADOT to improve the AI Fresco program and help establish a sustainable and accessible program for hundreds of restaurants throughout the City. Our members have extensive experience working with neighboring cities, including Santa Monica, to help coordinate and manage their successful AI Fresco programs and would be willing to offer any further suggestions or recommendations that could continue the success of the program.

Thank you for the hard work you and your staff have invested into the City's restaurants and hospitality businesses. We truly appreciate the Department and City's efforts to ensure we have the space and funding to continue to serve the residents of Los Angeles and bring economic vitality to the City. **Outdoor dining is truly essential to our survival** and we hope the City will continue to recognize that and support the thousands of restaurants struggling to make it through this pandemic.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at Eddie Navarrette 213-687-6963, ext. 101.

Thank you,



Eddie Navarrette
IHC Advocacy Committee Chair
eddie@fedesignandconsulting.com

About IHC

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) is a coalition of California hospitality workers whose purpose is to provide representation for our growing workforce and essential businesses, creating awareness of our role in the economic fabric of society. Our mission is to have a seat at the table to help shape policy and legitimize our crucial impact on communities and cities throughout California. More information can be found here:

<https://www.independenthospitality.org/>

Communication from Public

Name: Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed)

Date Submitted: 10/26/2020 02:31 PM

Council File No: 20-1074

Comments for Public Posting: Dear President Nury Martinez: We are contacting you on behalf of BizFed, the Los Angeles County Business Federation. We are an alliance of over 200 business organizations representing over 400,000 employers with 4.5 million employees in Los Angeles County. We are writing to express our STRONG support and immediate approval of Council file's 20-1263 (Krekorian) and 20-1074 (Ryu), which would increase funding for the City's Al Fresco Dining Program and make it permanent, respectively. We also ask that the motion by Councilmember Krekorian be increased to \$5million. Since the beginning of this pandemic, it has become increasingly clear that for residents, businesses and government to effectively adapt and create a new normal, new policies and rules are either created or suspended, allowing for the continued operation of businesses and employees alike. This is why the City's Al Fresco Dining Program is so important. Other cities in Los Angeles County have reported that expanding outdoor dining had not only saved many restaurants from closing – but had also allowed them to keep their businesses fully staffed at the same pre-pandemic level. It is our understanding that Phase 2 of the Al Fresco Dining Program only approved 14 applicants within the current budget. For this reason, we ask for an increase in funding to be considered – to ensure that as many restaurants as possible are able to take advantage of this successful program. Thank you for your consideration of our letter. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah.Wiltfong@bizfed.org. Sincerely,
Sandy Sanchez David Fleming Tracy Hernandez BizFed Chair
BizFed Founding Chair BizFed Founding CEO FivePoint
IMPOWER, Inc.

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Nury Martinez, President
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St. #470,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email

RE: Support - Council File: 20-1263 (Krekorian) and Council File: 20-1074 (Ryu) – Los Angeles City’s Al Fresco Dining Program

Dear President Nury Martinez:

We are contacting you on behalf of BizFed, the Los Angeles County Business Federation. We are an alliance of over 200 business organizations representing over 400,000 employers with 4.5 million employees in Los Angeles County. **We are writing to express our STRONG support and immediate approval of Council file’s 20-1263 (Krekorian) and 20-1074 (Ryu), which would increase funding for the City’s Al Fresco Dining Program and make it permanent, respectively. We also ask that the motion by Councilmember Krekorian be increased to \$5million.**

Since the beginning of this pandemic, it has become increasingly clear that for residents, businesses and government to effectively adapt and create a new normal, new policies and rules are either created or suspended, allowing for the continued operation of businesses and employees alike.

This is why the City’s Al Fresco Dining Program is so important. Other cities in Los Angeles County have reported that expanding outdoor dining had not only saved many restaurants from closing – but had also allowed them to keep their businesses fully staffed at the same pre-pandemic level.

It is our understanding that Phase 2 of the Al Fresco Dining Program only approved 14 applicants within the current budget. For this reason, we ask for an increase in funding to be considered – to ensure that as many restaurants as possible are able to take advantage of this successful program.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah.Wiltfong@bizfed.org.

Sincerely,



Sandy Sanchez
BizFed Chair
FivePoint



David Fleming
BizFed Founding Chair



Tracy Hernandez
BizFed Founding CEO
IMPOWER, Inc.

BizFed Association Members

7-Eleven Franchise Owners Association of Southern California
 Action Apartment Association
 Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
 American Beverage Association
 American Hotel & Lodging
 American Institute of Architects - Los Angeles
 Angeles Emerald
 Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles
 Apartment Association, CA Southern Cities, Inc.
 Arcadia Association of Realtors
 AREAA North Los Angeles SFV SCV
 Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. Southern California Chapter
 Association of Club Executives
 Association of Independent Commercial Producers
 Azusa Chamber of Commerce
 Bell Gardens Chamber of Commerce
 Beverly Hills Bar Association
 Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce
 BNI4SUCCESS
 Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce
 Building Industry Association - Baldyview
 Building Industry Association - LA/Ventura Counties
 Building Industry Association - Southern California
 Building Owners & Managers Association of Greater Los Angeles
 Burbank Association of REALTORS
 Burbank Chamber of Commerce
 Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness
 Business Resource Group
 CA Natural Resources Producers Assoc
 CalAsian Chamber
 CalCFA
 California Apartment Association- Los Angeles
 California Asphalt Pavement Association
 California Association of Food Banks
 California Bankers Association
 California Bus Association
 California Business Properties Association
 California Business Roundtable
 California Cannabis Industry Association
 California Cleaners Association
 California Construction Industry and Materials Association
 California Contract Cities Association
 California Fashion Association
 California Gaming Association
 California Grocers Association
 California Hispanic Chamber
 California Hotel & Lodging Association
 California Independent Oil Marketers Association (CIOA)
 California Independent Petroleum Association
 California Life Sciences Association
 California Manufacturers & Technology Association
 California Metals Coalition
 California Restaurant Association
 California Retailers Association
 California Small Business Alliance
 California Society of CPAs - Los Angeles Chapter
 California Sportfishing League
 California Trucking Association
 Californians for Balanced Energy Solutions
 Carson Chamber of Commerce
 Carson Dominguez Employers Alliance
 CDC Small Business Finance
 Central City Association
 Century City Chamber of Commerce
 Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Citrus Valley Association of Realtors
 Commercial Industrial Council/Chamber of Commerce
 Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition
 Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality

Council on Trade and Investment for Filipino Americans
 Covina Chamber
 Culver City Chamber of Commerce
 Downey Chamber of Commerce
 Downtown Center Business Improvement District
 Downtown Long Beach Alliance
 El Monte/South El Monte Chamber
 El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Employers Group
 Engineering Contractor's Association EXP
 F.A.S.T.- Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic FilmLA
 Friends of Hollywood Central Park
 Fur Information Council
 FuturePorts
 Gardena Valley Chamber
 Gateway to LA
 Glendale Association of Realtors
 Glendale Chamber
 Glendora Chamber
 Greater Antelope Valley AOR
 Greater Downey Association of REALTORS
 Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber
 Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS
 Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association
 Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
 Harbor Trucking Association
 Historic Core BID of Downtown Los Angeles
 Hollywood Chamber
 Hong Kong Trade Development Council
 Hospital Association of Southern California
 Hotel Association of Los Angeles
 Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce
 Independent Cities Association
 Industry Business Council
 Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
 Inland Empire Economic Partnership
 International Warehouse Logistics Association
 La Cañada Flintridge Chamber
 LA County Medical Association
 LA Fashion District BID
 LA South Chamber of Commerce
 Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
 Larchmont Boulevard Association
 Latino Food Industry Association
 Latino Restaurant Association
 LAX Coastal Area Chamber
 League of California Cities
 Long Beach Area Chamber
 Los Angeles Area Chamber
 Los Angeles County Board of Real Estate
 Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
 Los Angeles Gateway Chamber of Commerce
 Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
 Los Angeles Latino Chamber
 Los Angeles Parking Association
 Marketplace Industry Association
 Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. MoveLA
 NAIOP Southern California Chapter
 National Association of Royalty Owners
 National Association of Tobacco Outlets
 National Association of Women Business Owners
 National Association of Women Business Owners - LA
 National Hispanic Medical Association
 National Latina Business Women's Association
 Orange County Business Council
 Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
 Pacific Palisades Chamber

Panorama City Chamber of Commerce
 Paramount Chamber of Commerce
 Pasadena Chamber
 Pasadena Foothills Association of Realtors PhRMA
 Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
 Pomona Chamber
 Propel LA
 Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors
 ReadyNation California
 Recording Industry Association of America
 Regional Black Chamber-San Fernando Valley
 Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Regional San Gabriel Valley Chamber
 Rosemead Chamber
 San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
 San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
 San Pedro Peninsula Chamber
 Santa Clarita Valley Chamber
 Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp.
 Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
 Sherman Oaks Chamber
 South Bay Association of Chambers
 South Bay Association of Realtors
 South Gate Chamber of Commerce
 Southern California Contractors Association
 Southern California Golf Association
 Southern California Grantmakers
 Southern California Leadership Council
 Southern California Minority Suppliers Development Council Inc.
 Southern California Water Coalition
 Southland Regional Association of Realtors
 Sunland/Tujunga Chamber
 The Young Professional at the Petroleum Club
 Torrance Area Chamber
 Town Hall Los Angeles
 Tri-Counties Association of Realtors
 United Cannabis Business Association
 United Chambers - San Fernando Valley & Region
 United States-Mexico Chamber
 Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle Systems Association
 US Green Building Council
 US Resiliency Council
 Valley Economic Alliance, The
 Valley Industry & Commerce Association
 Vernon Chamber
 Vietnamese American Chamber
 Warner Center Association
 West Hollywood Chamber
 West Los Angeles Chamber
 West San Gabriel Valley Association of Realtors
 West Valley/Warner Center Chamber
 Western Manufactured Housing Association
 Western States Petroleum Association
 Westside Council of Chambers
 Westwood Community Council
 Westwood Village Rotary Club
 Whittier Chamber of Commerce
 Wilmington Chamber
 World Trade Center
 Young Professionals in Energy - LA Chapter