

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 Al Fresco program to 2021**. Restaurants need predictability and this is our lifeline for small businesses and city economic vitality. Extending Al 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 Al Fresco permitting model to **replace the City's current permanent Sidewalk Seating Application process**. Once Al 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 Al 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 Al 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 Al 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 Al 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 Al 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Navarrette', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

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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
BN14SUCCESS
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 (CIOMA)
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