

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Eddie Navarrette  
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**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached letter



*Via Email*

February 12, 2020

**Planning and Land Use Management Committee**  
***Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair***  
***Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo***  
***Councilmember Bob Blumenfield***  
***Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas***  
***Councilmember John S. Lee***

**Re: [20-0380-S1](#) (Local Emergency Code Amendment – Targeted Small Business Relief)**

Dear PLUM Chair Harris-Dawson and PLUM Committee Members:

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.

IHC has previously submitted a letter of support for **Case No. CPC-2020-4926-CA** and **Council File: 20-0380-S1**, which can be found [here](#). We wanted to highlight and reiterate the importance of this ordinance that will provide regulatory relief to restaurants who are in dire need of any assistance to successfully stay in operation at this time. We need support in our local laws and policies that will accommodate outdoor dining post Emergency Declaration as the City's dining culture continues to evolve into outdoor focused dining.

As we've mentioned in our previous letter, the restaurant and hospitality industry has been decimated by the COVID-19 virus. 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 this emergency ordinance will help provide small local businesses greater flexibility to operate during these unprecedented times.

Based on our knowledge and experience of the industry, we would like to reiterate our recommended changes that we hope will be considered in the final version of the ordinance.

Our single most important recommendation that will help provide regulatory and financial relief to restaurants is listed below:

**1. Include new patio areas that will not trigger additional parking.**

**Add a new bullet point under section E.1.(a) that states:**

***E.1.(a)***

***(6) No new parking will be required for any outdoor dining areas.***

***Reasoning:*** “Outdoor Dining” requires additional parking in some specific plan areas; and in certain scenarios, covered outdoor dining areas. We must provide the tools necessary allowing all restaurants to logistically operate in a post COVID-19 environment. It will still be some time before diners will feel comfortable to dine indoors. We must foster safer environments for patrons and in turn create a more reasonable opportunity for operators.

Parking has always been a major hurdle for restaurants. The Emergency Parking Ordinance will provide restaurants the ability to rebound from the impacts of COVID-19 and encourage operators to add additional square feet or patio seating temporarily to safely serve more patrons and hopefully survive the pandemic.

Thank you for the hard work you and your staff have invested in this ordinance and thank you for considering our recommended changes. This ordinance provides small businesses the opportunity to keep our restaurants open and viable, which supports jobs and brings economic vitality to the City. We hope you 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  
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***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/>