

Via Email

February 12, 2021

**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) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson and Committee Members:

I am writing to support Council File 20-0380-S1 if amended.

Having chaired the “Restaurant Reboot” working group convened by the City, I’m acutely aware how much our hospitality community needs our support.

CF 20-0380-S1 is the most concrete, no-cost action the City can take to throw a lifeline to our struggling small businesses. Perhaps tens of thousands of community enterprises and literally hundreds of thousands of jobs hang in the balance.

As drafted, the proposed ordinance will provide essential emergency regulatory relief for new and existing small businesses seeking to implement small change-of-use projects, a crucial strategy for economic survival. But it needs to do more:

1. **Existing businesses should not be penalized if they cannot afford to maintain expensive off-site parking leases and valet services during the COVID emergency and for a reasonable period thereafter.** As drafted, CF 20-0380-S1, only suspends enforcement of offsite parking requirements for new applicants or existing businesses conditioned to provide *above-code* parking. Especially in light of recent changes to State law (such as SB 288) that recognize parking requirements as environmentally and economically harmful, the City of L.A. should extend relief to its legacy small businesses, many of whom no longer benefit from and cannot pay for costly offsite parking arrangements.
2. **CF 20-0380-S1 should explicitly exempt outdoor dining in existing and new establishments from any parking requirements.** The current draft ordinance is unclear on its intent regarding outdoor dining. The City Council should make clearly include outdoor dining a use exempt from additional parking requirements.

Thank you for your important work to sustain our communities in this time of crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mott Smith', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mott Smith

C: City Clerk  
Gerald Gubatan, Planning Director, CD1  
Lisa Hansen, Chief of Staff, CD3  
Jeff Jacobberger, Legislative Deputy, CD3  
Elizabeth Ene, Director of Planning & Land Use, CD3  
Luciralia Ibarra, Planning Deputy, CD8  
Fernando Ramirez, CD10  
Hannah Lee, Chief of Staff, CD12