

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California's fast food industry stands out as one of the largest, fastest growing low-wage workforces in the state, with more than 557,000 workers across more than 30,000 locations; and

WHEREAS, in our state, fast-food workers are nearly 80 percent people of color and more than 60 percent Latino/Latina; 25 percent of them are the main income earner in their family; and women make up two thirds of the fast-food workforce nationally; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 150,000 fast food workers and almost 9,000 fast food locations in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, while other low-wage, high-violation industries have seen legislation aimed at reform, fast-food has not; and

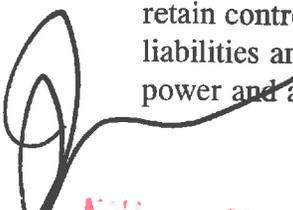
WHEREAS, a lack of industry-specific protections has left California fast food workers vulnerable to a slew of employment violations; and

WHEREAS, California fast food workers have been organizing for 8 years to demand higher wages, safer workplace and an end to systemic wage theft, sexual harassment, discrimination and health and safety issues throughout the industry; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the fast food industry crisis. Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found that line cooks had a 60% increase in mortality associated with the pandemic and that Latino(a) food service workers saw a 39% increase in mortality; in response to pandemic conditions, fast food workers took unprecedented action, filing more than 200 health and safety complaints and leading more than 300 strikes across the state to demand safer workplaces and a stronger voice on the job; and

WHEREAS, big corporations like McDonald's make billions of dollars in profits, but their frontline workers must rely on safety net programs to support their families; according to a joint report from UCLA and UC Berkeley, this costs California taxpayers \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, fast food corporations not only fail to adequately protect and support workers, they also fail to support franchise operators; parent companies like McDonald's retain control over franchise operations and take a lion's share of profits, but they push the liabilities and risks of conducting those operations onto franchisees; franchisees also need the power and ability to push back against predatory corporate practices that eat into their profit



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margins and force them to cut corners at the expense of workers; and

WHEREAS, it is evident that sector-wide improvements are urgently needed for California's fast food industry; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the state legislature is a bill, AB 257, the FAST Recovery Act (Gonzalez), which would address the overlapping issues facing fast food workers and operators; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Recovery Act will set standards across the California fast food industry by bringing together key stakeholders: frontline workers, regulatory agencies and representatives of franchisees and franchisors; these groups would form a Fast Food Sector Council which would work together to set improved health, safety, training and wage standards across the industry; and

WHEREAS, the Fast Food Sector Council would improve working conditions for hundreds of thousands of fast-food workers in California, help responsible businesses compete on a fair and level playing field, and prevent a race to the bottom that causes taxpayers to subsidize poverty-level jobs; and

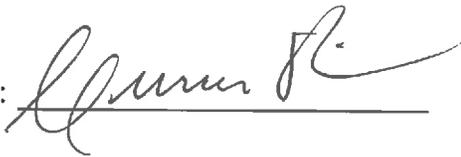
WHEREAS, our state has a proud tradition of supporting working people — from farm workers in the Central Valley to janitors in San Francisco to child care workers across the state who fought for nearly two decades to win their union; Black, brown, API and immigrant workers have driven much of this progress; and now, it's time for California to make history again by giving fast-food workers, the majority of whom are people of color, a stronger voice on the job and a meaningful seat at the table with AB 257;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 257 (Gonzalez), The FAST Recovery Act, which would: create the Fast Food Sector Council to improve working conditions for hundreds of thousands of fast-food workers in California; help responsible businesses compete on a fair and level playing field; and prevent a race to the bottom that causes taxpayers to subsidize poverty-level jobs.

PRESENTED BY:

  
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**