

Communication from Public

Name: Haley Potiker

Date Submitted: 02/03/2022 02:29 PM

Council File No: 19-0229

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Nury Martinez and Economic Development & Jobs Committee Chair Curren D. Price, My name is Haley Potiker and I am a resident of CD 13. I want to express my strong support for the LA Fair Workweek Ordinance and would like to thank you for your leadership on moving the ordinance forward. As you are aware, during this pandemic retail and grocery industry workers became frontline essential heroes responsible for connecting our communities with the food and resources needed during these uncertain times. Many of the workers in this sector come from our most vulnerable communities with a majority from communities of color and identifying as women. These workers have been forced to choose between their health and a paycheck—and they continue to meet the challenges of the pandemic while big corporations in this sector keep bringing in record profits. As we move toward recovery from this unprecedented pandemic, a comprehensive FWW policy will make retail and grocery work more just for these thousands of workers, make jobs in this sector sustainable, and will help uplift our communities who have been most impacted by the pandemic. Unfair scheduling impacts a huge number of working families in our city, with unstable work hours upholding a system of income inequality that keeps communities in poverty: workers in this sector are the least well off in the LA economy. This instability in scheduling has detrimental effects that also lead to poor health, stress, anxiety, lack of sleep, irregular meal times, missed medical appointments, no time off for emergencies or special events, and little chance to plan ahead for family, school, and additional work commitments. Our retail and grocery workers deserve access to high quality jobs and scheduling stability that affords them a good quality of life, positive work-life balance, dignity, and respect. We look forward to Los Angeles joining other major cities that have passed fair scheduling policies, including New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Our essential workers in the retail and grocery industry should not have to keep facing the same challenges that they did prior to the pandemic. Thank you for your leadership. Haley