

Communication from Public

Name: Timothy James
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Council File No: 19-0229
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter. Thank you for your consideration.

February 7, 2022



The Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.
Chair, Economic Development and Jobs Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: "Fair Work Week" Employment Standards (19-0229)

Dear Chair Price,

On behalf of Los Angeles Grocers, I write to urge the Committee to not move forward at this time with the "Fair Work Week" Employment Standards ordinance (19-0229). This issue has laid dormant for over two years and during that time there has been significant changes at several levels. I am sure you would agree it is important to include all impacted parties and recognize current circumstances before consideration, especially hearing from grocers who would be tasked with implementation.

Unfortunately, the committee has provided only one day between hearing notification and the hearing itself which does not allow for reasonable or productive policy participation. At this time, we are forced to oppose the ordinance due to lack of refreshed policy consideration.

We respectfully ask the Committee to reschedule the hearing for a time after the authors and committee members can hear from impacted grocers, especially ethnic and independent grocers. Committee membership has changed significantly in the years since this issue was last discussed and several new councilmembers will be seeing this policy for the first time. It is important policy impacts during the current situation are fully understood by all participants.

It must also be recognized that the grocery industry is still heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grocery industry operations remain fragile with impacts across the spectrum, including supply delivery issues, increased costs to secure goods, reduced workforce, increased COVID costs for safety and emergency benefits, and increased competition from on-line sales. Forcing a significant operational change at this time would only further compromise grocery stability.

We look forward to a full and respectful review of this policy with all involved. Unfortunately, that has not taken place at this time with the current circumstances so we must oppose at this time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY M. JAMES
Director, Local Government Relations

cc: President and Members, Los Angeles City Council
The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles