

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see the attached file.



# INDEPENDENT

## HOSPITALITY COALITION

*Via Email*

February 28, 2022

### **Planning and Land Use Committee**

*Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair*

*Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld*

*Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo*

*Councilmember John S. Lee*

*Councilmember Monica Rodriguez*

### **Re: Permanency of Al Fresco, LADCP and LADBS Report Back ([CF:20-1074](#)) and the Restaurant Beverage Program ([17-0981](#))**

Dear Public Works Committee Chair Bob Blumenfeld and Committee Members:

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) represents over 1,200 members comprised of local food service operators and employees within the Los Angeles area. We were created to provide a voice and representation for our workforce and essential businesses engrained in the local economy of Los Angeles.

We are writing to provide comment and continued support on Item #8 ([CF: 20-1074](#)) listed on the Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda, hearing a joint report back to CF-1074 by LADCP and LADBS, with recommendations to move forward a permanent Al Fresco Program.

As you consider Item #8 (CF 20-1074), please be aware that the more restrictive we frame policy for restaurants, the harder we will make the extremely difficult job for LADCP, an agency with a declining staff since 2019, and an agency already heavily tasked with our future infrastructure.

I say this in light of the “RBP” vs “RBP sensitive uses boundary maps” you will need to decide on in the coming months as you have all mentioned will be a great help to our struggling small business community. The RBP will not be allowed a potential vehicle of equitable magnitude for permanency of Al Fresco if some businesses are allowed the full rights of RBP vs the others who are not. Classifying a boundary for sensitive use is an example of archaic ABC policy that has not been updated since its writing into the ABC code in the 1970s, the same era when the ABC law prohibiting female bartenders was repealed. We are not a city from the 70s anymore. We are 2022 Los Angeles, home to a thriving, leading minority-driven independent hospitality scene. There is zero proof that restaurants serving alcohol having limited hours of operation closing at 11pm daily are contributing to the negative impacts in our neighborhoods.

We ask you, before you create boundaries by resolution, to review a proposed “report back” on the number of establishments having the conditions imposed by the RBP that are not approved. This will reflect the unnecessary resources we are creating in our current policy

infrastructure. In early discussions in the development of the RBP, we voiced over 90% of these applications are approved regardless.

We invite you to a legitimate conversation to discuss ABC sensitive use practicality and how exclusion of particular “considered high crime” areas will only lead to suppression of our struggling independent small business community.

As we battle with homelessness, street vendors, increased food/rent/planning applications/expeditor costs and restrictions due to Covid we ask you: Please approve equitable small business policy that will sustain -- not restrain.

Thank you for hearing our voice. We look forward to building a more sustainable hospitality community together. We truly appreciate your efforts to ensure we can continue to safely serve Los Angeles residents. 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 213 545 2620.

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/>*