

Communication from Public

Name: Rima S. Khoury
Date Submitted: 03/29/2022 03:10 PM
Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council, On behalf of the National Hookah Community Association and its members, we appreciate your support in recognizing the cultural importance of hookah as you consider Council File 18-1104, which bans flavored tobacco products. On June 16, 2021 the LA City Council voted unanimously to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance banning flavored tobacco while exempting hookah lounges for on-site consumption, and off site consumption in 21 and over establishments that comply with state and local law with no transferability of licenses, however if a hookah lounge would like to sell their business they could, provided the prospective buyer obtains a new TPE license, which when approved will be retroactively dated to the flavored tobacco ban effective date. Unfortunately, despite the clear direction from LA City Council, the draft ordinance does not reflect the City Council's direction and included several provisions never contemplated or discussed by the LA City Council creating ambiguity and ultimately making it difficult for compliance and enforcement or even worse, allowing unfettered enforcement discretion. On February 9, 2022 the Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhoods Committee ("APHEN") committee attempted to rectify this issue by amending the LA flavored tobacco ban to reflect the LA City Council vote and eliminated several "add on" provisions in the body of the draft ordinance. Despite their efforts, some changes made were missed and not reflected in the preamble of definitions, creating incongruencies and ultimately confusion. The current version contains an overly restrictive definition of hookah that needs further clarity to prevent otherwise authorized and compliant lounges from being banned. We ask for clarity and consistency while also having the LA flavored tobacco ban reflect the intent and will of the LA City Council vote by remanding Council File 18-1104 back to the APHEN committee to correct these issues and provide a flavored tobacco ban ordinance that will go to the LA City Council for vote without conflict or confusion to ensure that immigrant, small business, hookah lounge owners can continue to operate as the Council directed. We also believe it is better to clarify the requirements of the ordinance now, instead of leaving enforcement questions to the courts resulting in costly litigation these small business owners

cannot afford.

Communication from Public

Name: Pranav Vadali

Date Submitted: 03/29/2022 09:42 PM

Council File No: 18-1104

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Pranav Vadali with the American Lung Association Collegiate Council of USC. Our organization is a coalition member of L.A. Families Fighting Flavored Tobacco. We are in full support of a comprehensive ordinance that ends the sale of flavored tobacco, including menthol tobacco and e-cigarettes. As a college student, I have witnessed first hand the effects of addiction from a young age, and it has become clear to me that flavored tobacco products need to be banned to reduce the probability of addiction in children, teenagers and young adults. Passing this measure will send a message to the rest of California and the entire country that standing up to addiction and tobacco companies is possible, and will place LA at the forefront of standing up for the health of all communities. Thank you for stand up to big tobacco and protecting the health of L.A. families and youth!