

Communication from Public

Name: California Grocers Association

Date Submitted: 05/30/2022 10:41 PM

Council File No: 19-0229

Comments for Public Posting: Please accept the attached letter regarding the "Fair Work Week" Ordinance. It is critically important to understand that striking the language "or unanticipated customer need" from LAAC Section 185.06.B.2. will result in serious resiliency and recovery impacts during disasters and emergencies. The California Grocers Association respectfully asks Council to reinstate this language in order to protect neighborhoods and the city as a whole from dangerous unintended consequences. Thank you for your consideration. Tim James, California Grocers Association.

May 30, 2022

The Honorable Nury Martinez
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St., Ste 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012



RE: "Fair Work Week" Ordinance (19-0229)

Dear President Martinez,

On behalf of Los Angeles grocers, I am writing with opposition to a recent amendment to the "Fair Work Week" ordinance which will cause serious impacts during emergencies and disasters. As we know from the pandemic, natural disasters, major power outages, civil unrest and other emergency situations, customers require uninterrupted access to food, medicine, and personal health items. Any impediment accessing these items reduces resiliency and delays recovery.

It is widely recognized by emergency and disaster response agencies that retaining critical essential infrastructure, most importantly grocery stores, is the highest priority. In Los Angeles, it will be especially critical to keep grocery stores intact and open to reduce disaster impacts for all neighborhoods and the city as a whole. Unfortunately, amendments made in the Economic Development and Jobs Committee (EDJC) have greatly reduced grocery store resiliency in disaster and emergency situations.

A motion accepted by the EDJC removed the phrase "unanticipated consumer need" from an exception from being required to provide penalty pay (185.06B.2). During emergencies and disasters, grocers require having as many people as possible work to maintain operations. This change creates a challenge and disincentive to having the necessary workforce. Unfortunately, the maker of the motion did not meet with the grocery industry to understand the importance of this specific exception.

If the language is not replaced, grocers would be forced to deal with extra financial and operational challenges while struggling to restart or remain open for the public good. In order to ease disaster and emergency response by grocers, this language is required. To be clear, not correcting this motion would be short-sighted and could delay disaster and emergency response citywide.

Grocers recognize the important role we play in both daily life and during disasters and emergencies. We are asking you to support our role as critical infrastructure during difficult times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim James
Director, Local Government Relations
California Grocers Association

cc: Members, Los Angeles City Council
Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk, City of Los Angeles