

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren Lemos

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Council File No: 20-0147-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Lauren Lemos and I own/operate/manage/ Wax Paper, (as you know of) a restaurant in your Council District. On behalf of myself and my employees, we urge you to consider the needs of restaurants and the hospitality industry. Many of us are small businesses who will be irrevocably harmed during this unstable time. In the past few days, every restaurant and bar in the City has been forced to close or pivot to accommodate delivery-only and takeout. For many restaurants, it is unfeasible to make this adjustment. While we understand that this is for the good of our community, it has had a detrimental effect on our business and our employees. I know that the City Council has the best interest of our restaurants and our employees at heart. We fully support Motions 72N, 72R, 72Z and 72QQ. These motions will truly help revive the hospitality industry after we come out of this public health crisis and allow us to take care of our employees during this extremely difficult time. Our employees are family to us. Since the mandated shut-down, we have done everything possible to take care of them for as long as this may last and work to make sure they have a job to come back to when we are able to re-open. However, I worry that some of the proposed motions will end up hurting our employees more than they would help them. Please Oppose Motions 72J and 72KK. Both motions will make it harder to bring our employees back as soon as possible. Although these rules may be applicable to larger chain restaurants, independent restaurants like mine would struggle with these motions. In addition, I ask that you Oppose Motion 72HH, which, although commendable, would be prohibitively expensive and would force restaurants to make payments that, as small businesses, we simply cannot afford if we hope to reopen as soon as we are allowed. Any legislation that puts more costs on small businesses without truly covering the cost will prevent many of us from reopening. At next week's City Council meeting, please understand how your vote will affect both the restaurant employees and small business owners. My number one priority is to support and provide for every one of my employees but I also want to ensure that they will have a job to come back to once the COVID-19 crisis passes. Thank you