

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cindy Cleghorn

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 11:16 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support this motion to spark investment into new small businesses that will provide neighborhood serving retail, restaurants and services needed to serve and improve our communities. Passing this motion will help to eliminate blight and closed door operations. Neighborhood serving retail can thrive, communities can be safe in their neighborhoods. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarah Blanch

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:18 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a citizen in LA who lives in Venice, I strongly oppose the Restaurant Beverage Program in its current form. I also find it very disheartening that this was fast-tracked today. Hundreds of community members have expressed opposition to the RBP and have been told for months that they would have an opportunity to weigh in at public hearings. We are being robbed of this opportunity. The RBP will mean licenses are handed out like candy. Alcohol has a huge impact on the safety and livability of our neighborhoods. I strongly oppose the ordinance and ask City Council to vote no, not only because the bill is dangerous, but also because this is a blatant power-grab...the community i being tricked and blocked from the process. Vote NO.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brenda Villanueva

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:21 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi my name is Brenda Villanueva and I am the Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance. I think that you should highly reconsider sending this back to Planning Commission for its scheduled hearing and furthermore consider public comment as a part of the process. We already have a high concentration of alcohol outlets in Los Angeles and we don't need to facilitate more. Although, we understand that this only applies to bonafide restaurants, it is still allowing for more alcohol licenses to come into already proliferated neighborhoods without any public input or comment. This doesn't settle well with us, as we think the community should have input in any business requesting an alcohol license. We highly oppose the motion as it stands and are disappointed that little to none of our recommendations have been taken into account.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gilbert Mora

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:22 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) Ordinance as it now stands is entirely inadequate for the following reasons: • The Ordinance does not include any conditions that will mitigate the land use and public safety impacts that result from the sale of alcohol. There is every reason to anticipate a flood of new applications as a result of a dramatically expedited process and reduction in fees. With no restrictions on happy hours, minimum drink requirements, and drink specials, our neighborhoods will suffer from additional alcohol-related problems, including drunk driving, injuries, crime, fighting and public nuisance activity. • The Ordinance provides no opportunity for public input. Community members, Neighborhood Councils and other entities, including LAPD itself, will merely be notified of the new alcohol businesses that will be opening – even in already dense, overly-concentrated areas – without being afforded any opportunity to have a voice about what alcohol businesses are opening and how they operate. • The Ordinance does not mandate adequate enforcement, designating only two City-initiated inspections over the entire lifetime of the permit. That means all new alcohol businesses with an expedited CUB will be operating with no accountability, no inspections, and no consequences for the lifetime of their permits after the first two inspections are complete. • The Ordinance does not articulate a streamlined revocation process in the event operators violate the conditions of their permit. To expedite this right now with no real public notice is disenfranchising those would be interested in expressing their opposition to such an ordinance in its current form. RBP should not be included in this motion and should be allowed to run its course in the normal manner, not forgoing an already planned commission meeting next month where the public was intending to voice its concerns on the ordinance. Please rethink this expediting of RBP and how it will negatively affect the public's confidence in the LA City Council. Now of all times, during an FBI investigation is not the time to forgo full transparency and proper protocol in these trying times. With Gratitude, Gilbert Mora Co-Chair of California Alcohol Policy Alliance.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maurina Cintron

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:27 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, my name is Maurina Cintron and I am a member of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance and we are not happy. The city has not taken any considerations of our group and any other into account. This is a complete power grab from the city. Community voices need to be heard even if it takes up your time. Also, to have this motion be retroactive is a full snap in the face to the communities you all serve. Taking no concern for public health and safety. This motion is not ready for the community- it's only looking out for business.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cassandra Meraz

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:36 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Good morning LA City Council, My name is Cassandra Meraz and I am a member of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance. I believe that section D on CF 20-0380-S1 should be amended and taken out immediately due to the fact that this program is still being considered by the City Planning Commission and has yet to have a hearing by them. I understand trying to include this to help restart the economy and help small businesses; however, the city of Los Angeles does not need to facilitate more alcohol licenses in a city that already faces a high alcohol density issue. As an alliance, we hope that the Council takes into consideration the public's concerns and comments in particular when it comes to alcohol licensing in such a turbulent time. Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sean Sweeney

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:44 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Sean Sweeney Item 40 (d) I'm a Community Engagement Specialist with the United Coalition East Prevention Project and an employee of Social Model Recovery Systems. I'm submitting these concerns on behalf of our coalition members. Due to the fact that the Restaurant Beverage Program is being pushed quickly through the process of expedition, a broader approach has been suggested when issuing alcohol sales permits regardless of sensitive use areas and their associated communities. This approach ignores the notion that varying neighborhoods in Los Angeles have needs and issues that vastly differ from locale to locale – an especially complex problem in many of which that have already been saturated with an overconcentration of alcohol outlets for a number of years. Clearing the Restaurant Beverage Program for operation would flood the Los Angeles community with alcohol, and the availability and consumption of liquor has correlates to increases in crime, violence/domestic violence, and DUI incidents. High levels of alcohol concentration also serve to intensify and exacerbate the battle against addiction and threaten a healthy recovery. Skid Row is already currently surrounded by several hundred establishments that sell alcohol, causing community members to advocate for alcohol prohibitive measures to be included in the DTLA 2040 program as a safeguard. The Restaurant Beverage Program also does not consider community input, as it would serve to bar the ability of community members and stakeholders to voice concerns regarding community needs and proposed uses. While the Restaurant Beverage Program does provide for a standard set of operational conditions proposed to mitigate potential problems, this pales in comparison to the power of community input and vigilance. We also believe that the implementation of the Restaurant Beverage Program also sets forth a dangerous precedent for future alcohol related legislation in Los Angeles -- current changes to CA State guidelines for selling alcohol have already created additional concerns, as all on-site alcohol uses (i.e. restaurants) can now sell off-site (i.e. to go). This policy changes the spirit of the proposed City program, which was envisioned for select sit-down family restaurants.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Casey Maddren

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 12:36 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Date: May 27, 2020 To: Members of the LA City Council From: Casey Maddren 2141 Cahuenga Blvd., Apt. 17, Los Angeles, CA 90068 cmaddren@gmail.com Re: Council Agenda, Wednesday, May 27, 2020 Item No. 40 Council File No. 20-0380-S1 Members of the Los Angeles City Council, While I've always been disturbed by the Council's readiness to stifle public comment and bypass due process, I have to say I'm stunned by the fact that Councilmember Blumenfield's emergency ordinance, ostensibly designed to "eliminate financial and regulatory burdens on small businesses", has been hustled onto the Council agenda without even being heard by PLUM. The language used to introduce the item on the Council agenda is misleading and dishonest. The idea that shutting the public out of the process of granting liquor permits is a matter of eliminating "financial and regulatory burdens on small businesses" is a serious mischaracterization. Communities have a right to have a voice in the granting of liquor permits in their area, and the Restaurant Beverage Program will silence their voice. Apparently Councilmembers Blumenfield and Price believe that allowing the public, including neighborhood councils, to voice their opinions about local alcohol density amounts to a "regulatory burden". Placing the motion on the Wednesday, May 27 agenda seems to be a clear violation of due process. Not only did the PLUM Committee waive consideration, but the Council File No. for Councilmember Blumenfield's motion is different from the Council File No. for the Restaurant Beverage Program. This means that those who signed up for updates on the RBP will not be notified that this motion is on the agenda, and that the comments submitted by NCs are not included in the Council File. Also, recently City Planning sent out a Restaurant Beverage Program Fact Sheet to update interested parties on the ordinance's progress. It states that.... "The City Planning Commission is slated to consider the Restaurant Beverage Program in the coming months. Prior to that public hearing, City Planning will host an information session by webinar in May. Details of this virtual session will be posted at [Planning4LA.org/about/calendar](http://Planning4LA.org/about/calendar) once they are available. " Now, even though the ordinance has not been reviewed by the CPC, we find Councilmember Blumenfield's motion has been slipped onto the Council agenda with no warning. In addition to the problems related to the stealth placement of this motion on the agenda, it appears that Councilmembers Blumenfield and Price do not care about the health impacts and economic costs related to the consumption of alcohol in LA County. Alcohol related hospitalizations rose 20% from 2005 to 2017. Alcohol related ED visits rose 117% from 2005 to 2017. Alcohol deaths from cirrhosis have also increased during the same period. Alcohol use cost LA County over \$11 billion in 2018. Information from SAPC Data Brief, March 2019, from County of Los Angeles <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/MDBrief/AlcoholBriefFinal.pdf> A review of the information given above leads one to ask why no public health study has been done in conjunction with the RBP? The ordinance will definitely have impacts to the health of our communities. For the last couple of years the City of LA has already been jacking up alcohol density by awarding Master CUPs for various projects, including Crossroads Hollywood (20+ permits), 333 Alameda (12 permits) and The Metropolis (34 permits). Passage of the RBP would only accelerate this process, with no community input allowed. I am opposed to approval of the



Restaurant Beverage Program, and I am especially opposed to the dishonest and secretive way it has been slipped onto the Council agenda. I urge the members of the Council to reject this motion.

Date:  
May 27, 2020

To:  
Members of the LA City Council

From:  
Casey Maddren  
2141 Cahuenga Blvd., Apt. 17, Los Angeles, CA 90068  
cmaddren@gmail.com

Re:  
Council Agenda, Wednesday, May 27, 2020  
Item No. 40  
Council File No. 20-0380-S1

Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

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The language used to introduce the item on the Council agenda is misleading and dishonest. The idea that shutting the public out of the process of granting liquor permits is a matter of eliminating "financial and regulatory burdens on small businesses" is a serious mischaracterization. Communities have a right to have a voice in the granting of liquor permits in their area, and the Restaurant Beverage Program will silence their voice. Apparently Councilmembers Blumenfield and Price believe that allowing the public, including neighborhood councils, to voice their opinions about local alcohol density amounts to a "regulatory burden".

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session by webinar in May. Details of this virtual session will be posted at [Planning4LA.org/about/calendar](http://Planning4LA.org/about/calendar) once they are available.

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<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/MDBrief/AlcoholBriefFinal.pdf>

A review of the information given above leads one to ask why no public health study has been done in conjunction with the RBP? The ordinance will definitely have impacts to the health of our communities.

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I am opposed to approval of the Restaurant Beverage Program, and I am especially opposed to the dishonest and secretive way it has been slipped onto the Council agenda. I urge the members of the Council to reject this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alicia Godinez

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 09:40 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Mi nombre es Alicia Godinez, soy residente de Boyle Heights. Quiero expresar mi oposicion como madre que sufre por el abuso de alcohol y violencia del hogar por 30 años. En cuanto a su ordenanza Programa de Bebidas en Restaurantes, quiero hacer publico mi completa oposición. Escencialmente, porque no esta tomando en cuenta la opinion ni la seguridad de los residentes.

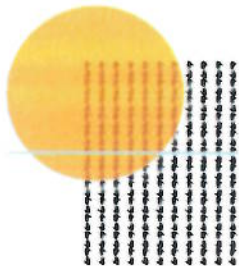
## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eddie Navarrette

**Date Submitted:** 05/27/2020 10:00 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0380-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** May 27th, 2020 RE: Council file number 20-0380-S1 Item #40 Food and beverage industry operations/streamline city process and approvals recommended by a working group supervised by the EWDD Honorable Councilmembers, We are 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. We formed in the shadows of Covid-19 as the impacts swept us to a sea of despair. With a member base of 400 members representing over 2500 hospitality workers we are LA based yet California strong. We support item 20-0380-S1. Red tape has always been a burden for hospitality operators. Café's, restaurants and the like are the base of our small business eco system. They inspire, pedestrian activity, giving opportunity for retail businesses; they provide jobs, local commerce and presence for a safe walk home at night. If we are to foster a return of these businesses so devastated by the impacts of Covid-19 we are going to have to change our culture in regulation towards them. This motion reflects the direction of change we so urgently need. Thank you for continuing to consider legislation helpful to our LA small business community. All of us are hard at work figuring out how to navigate small business in the climate of covid-19. Our future is dark, the odds are against us; motions like these give us a glimmer of hope we have not been forgotten. Sincerely, Eddie Navarrette Founding Member Independent Hospitality Coalition



Independent Hospitality Coalition

[independenthospitality.org](http://independenthospitality.org)

[info@independenthospitality.org](mailto:info@independenthospitality.org)

[@cahospitalitycoalition](https://twitter.com/cahospitalitycoalition)

May 27th, 2020

RE: Council file number **20-0380-S1** Item #40

Food and beverage industry operations/streamline city process and approvals recommended by a working group supervised by the EWDD

Honorable Councilmembers,

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**We support item 20-0380-S1.** Red tape has always been a burden for hospitality operators. Café's, restaurants and the like are the base of our small business eco system. They inspire, pedestrian activity, giving opportunity for retail businesses; they provide jobs, local commerce and presence for a safe walk home at night. If we are to foster a return of these businesses so devastated by the impacts of Covid-19 we are going to have to change our culture in regulation towards them. This motion reflects the direction of change we so urgently need.

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Sincerely,

Eddie Navarrette  
Founding Member

Independent Hospitality Coalition