

Communication from Public

Name: Nick
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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Nick and I work with a restaurant group that has several restaurants around Los Angeles. I am writing in to support the proposed ordinance that would create a Restaurant Beverage Program and an administrative process for alcohol sales tied to restaurants. I know this has been in discussion before COVID-19 and it was an extremely beneficial and exciting program then. Since COVID-19, the restaurant industry has been decimated. The creation of a Restaurant Beverage Program would help the small restaurant businesses that cannot afford a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the costs associate with the CUP process, as well as an expeditor to help them navigate the often complex and confusing process. Having an alcohol license can significantly increase restaurant revenue, help provide greater sales tax to the City, and also sustain the local jobs we provide to a wide variety of Angelenos at varying socioeconomic levels. A CUP for alcohol in conjunction with a restaurant should not cost \$15,000. It is an insurmountable hurdle for small, local businesses and many restaurants lose out on the potential of revenue from alcohol sales. It is imperative that the City simplify the permitting process for restaurants and become more business friendly, especially for small businesses trying to survive the pandemic. In short, this ordinance provides small businesses the opportunity for more revenue, which helps keep our restaurants open and viable, which supports jobs and brings economic vitality to the City. We hope you will consider establishing the program to support the thousands of restaurants struggling to make it through this pandemic with a program that will be successful for years to come, even after recovery from the pandemic.