

Communication from Public

Name: CoPALM
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Comments for Public Posting: Coalition for Prevention and Awareness in L.A. Metro
(CoPALM)



August 11, 2020

Chair, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Reconsideration of the Restaurant Beverage Program Ordinance
(Council File #17-0981)**

Dear Councilmember Harris-Dawson,

On behalf of the Coalition for Prevention and Awareness in Los Angeles Metro (CoPALM), we express our concerns regarding the Restaurant Beverage Program Ordinance which expedites the process of granting alcohol licenses for on-sale restaurants.

The Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) Ordinance does not consider public health and the safety of our communities which will heavily contribute to the overconcentration of alcohol businesses for the following reasons:

- Even though the new amendment restricts happy hours, minimum drink and no live entertainment, communities around the businesses will unquestionably be impacted by alcohol related harms and crime.
- The ordinance also does not consider input from community stakeholders such as Neighborhood Councils and other entities who are concerned with high density of alcohol outlets. It is essential for Neighborhood Councils to preserve the opportunity of to advocate for the community's voice.
- The ordinance does not require sufficient enforcement, and it requires only two inspections throughout the permit process. After those two inspections, businesses will not be accountable nor be responsible for any consequences for the rest of their permit period.

- The ordinance does not articulate a streamlined revocation process in the event operators violate the conditions of their permit.

Los Angeles already has enough alcohol businesses that sell alcohol. All new land use policies that expedite the alcohol permitting process must provide details in regard to the protection of public health and community safety. As it currently stands, the RBP ordinance only benefits businesses. It must also be beneficial to communities. For these reasons, The Coalition for Prevention and Awareness in L.A. Metro (CoPALM) asks you to reconsider the ordinance.

Sincerely,

Bryan Zaragoza Hurtado

CoPALM Chair