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August 21, 2013

RE: Public Works Committee Agenda Item 5 (CF No. 13-0658)

To the Honorable members of the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee:

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is L.A.'s premier business advocacy association, whose 450 members employ over 350,000 people in the Los Angeles region. On behalf of its members, CCA is pleased to support the motion regarding expediting the permit process for sidewalk dining before you today (CF No. 13-0658).

We thank Councilman Huizar and Committee Chair Councilman Buscaino for this motion. As one of the leaders of the Downtown renaissance, CCA has witnessed first-hand the incalculable benefits of activating our streets. Sidewalk dining boosts economic activity and improves public safety. Unfortunately, the cumbersome and expensive sidewalk dining permit process currently in place deters many businesses (and particularly Mom & Pop businesses) from enjoying this tremendous amenity. This pilot program to expedite permit processing is a prime example of proactive measures the City can take to get us out of these difficult economic times once and for all.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward a successful pilot program that can be replicated throughout Downtown.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Schatz
President & CEO