

Thursday, March 22, 2018



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

From: Dr. Randal Henry
Founder/Chief Intelligence Officer
Community Intelligence, LLC.; and,
Project Director, Making Connections Network
4317 Leimert Blvd. #1,
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Re: *Council file number 17-0117, Support for Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict Conditional Use Permits*

Dear Council President Herb Wesson, Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember Bob Blumefield, Councilmember/PLUM Chairperson/José Huizar and members of the PLUM Committee,

Whereas, 'Community Intelligence LLC' and the almost 900-member 'Making Connections Network for Uplifting Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing in Communities of Color' are troubled by the overconcentration of alcohol retail locations in the City of Los Angeles. And,

Whereas, we are Los Angelenos' concerned about the burden that (a) an over-concentration of alcohol outlets, (b) a relatively high density of alcohol serving/selling establishments and, (c) alcohol related problems place on public health, mental health communities, wellbeing and the general health, safety and welfare, and,

Whereas, a 2016 report published by the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Los Angeles County Department of Public Health titled, 'Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol - Related Consequences,' concluded the following:

- "[Los Angeles] Communities and cities with higher alcohol outlet density were more likely to have higher rates of violent crimes, alcohol-related [emergency department] ED visits, and alcohol-related hospitalizations, even after accounting for economic hardship."
- A Baltimore, MD study found that for "each one-unit increase in the number of alcohol outlets was associated with a 2.2 % increase in the count of violent crimes adjusting for neighborhood disadvantage, percent minority, percent occupancy, drug arrests, and spatial dependence. Off-premise alcohol outlets were significantly associated with violent crime in the adjusted model (Jennings JM, et al, J Urban Health. 2014). And,
- In Atlanta, GA A 3% relative reduction in alcohol outlet density in Buckhead from 1997-2002 to 2003-2007 was associated with a 2-fold greater reduction in exposure to violent crime than occurred in Midtown or Downtown, where exposure to on-premises retail alcohol outlets increased (Zhang X, et al, Prev Chronic Dis. 2015 May 28;12:E84.).

Whereas, there is currently there is a motion (**Council File 17-0117**) instructing the Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report on the feasibility of establishing a process to

create Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistricts (ARUS), that would serve to restrict the overconcentration of alcohol retailers in areas of the City where the retail sale of alcohol is negatively impacting neighborhoods and residents. And,

Whereas, ARUS would allow communities and their representatives to identify vulnerable areas in city council districts where restrictions could be applied on the future issuances of off-sale or on-sale alcohol licenses. ARUS zones will protect communities and families while encouraging healthier retail options to open up in the area.

Therefore, 'Community Intelligence LLC' and the almost 900-member 'Making Connections Network for Uplifting Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing in Communities of Color' conclude that the correlation between overconcentration of alcohol retail locations and harms to public health, safety and general welfare is unquestionable.

In conclusion, we ask that the Planning and Land Use Management Committee schedule the ARUS motion for a hearing. We also respectfully request that the committee support passage of the motion.

Sincerely,
Randal Henry, DrPH, MPH

Founder/Chief Intelligence Officer
Community Intelligence, LLC.; and,
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About 'Community Intelligence LLC':

'Community Intelligence LLC' is a research and evaluation consulting firm that works with communities, government agencies and philanthropic organizations to uplift public health, mental health and wellbeing in communities of color.

About the 'Making Connections Network for Uplifting Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing in Communities of Color':

The almost 900-member 'Making Connections Network for Uplifting Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing in Communities of Color' has two objectives: (1) uplifting men/boys and women/girls of color; and, (2) elevating public health, mental health and wellbeing in communities of color - especially among young people. Our goal is to reduce - ultimately prevent - the impact of injury, violence and trauma on mental health and community well-being in communities of color by developing community-level strategies and increasing the number of young people who are engaged and retained in school, youth services and after-school programs. Making Connections goals are realized through information sharing, CBPR/action research, educational conferences, capacity building, collaboration/coalition development and networking.

- letter sent to the PLUM clerk file via email to: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org