



August 11, 2017

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

Re: Council file number 17-0117 Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict/Conditional Use Permits - Support

Dear Chairman Huizar,

We first want to thank councilmember Huizar and the PLUM committee for their support of the ordinance banning alcohol ads on city owned and controlled property. We are happy to report that the Coalition to Ban Alcohol Ads on Public Property in Los Angeles has now consolidated into the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (L.A. DAPA).

Children's Hospital Los Angeles Substance Abuse Prevention Program is working alongside L.A. DAPA in Northeast Los Angeles where there is a movement regarding beer runs and responsible beverage service. We work closely with the United for N.E.L.A./Unidos por N.E.L.A. (Northeast LA) leadership group is made up of community members striving for a healthy and sustainable community. To that end, they have taken part in implementing a retail framework that includes visiting liquor license establishments to make sure they are complying with the ABC requirements and being responsive to local concerns regarding beer runs. As a result the establishments have been more vigilant about beer runs and have partnered with N.E.L.A LAPD to deter beer runs. Even though these efforts have had positive outcomes, we continue to be concerned about the risks adolescents and their families face due to the high concentration of alcohol outlets in their community.

As concerned community members we are troubled by the overconcentration of alcohol retail locations in the City of Los Angeles. 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.

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.

The correlation between overconcentration of alcohol retail locations and harms is unquestionable. 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,

Irene M. Lim, LCSW
Program Manager
Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Program
Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine