



Watts Healthcare Corporation

A Primary Health Care Organization

10300 Compton Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90002 323-564-4331

November 16, 2017

Chair Planning and Land Use
Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

Re: Council File Number 17-0117 Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict / Conditional Use Permits – Support

Dear Councilmember José Huizar:

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.

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."

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.

As a Community Health Center that has just celebrated its 50th Anniversary of service to South Los Angeles, we are well aware of the social determinants of health, such as the over concentration of liquor outlets, and how they impact the health and social fabric of our community. We wholeheartedly support efforts to limit the over concentration of liquor outlets in our community"

Sincerely,

Roderick N. Seamster, MD, MPH
President & CEO

RNS/mjb

pc: Jorge Reyes - Watts Healthcare Corporation, Director of Behavioral and Social Services
HOU-Dept. File

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