



March 6, 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).

The Wall Las Memorias Project, located in Highland Park, has been working on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) programs to decrease the rate of alcohol and other drug misuse. We form part of the L.A. DAPA and are happy to report that we are creating a coalition with the South East Los Angeles community to cohesively address the current epidemic of alcohol and other drug use among the youth.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Zaldivar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard L. Zaldivar
Executive Director/Founder