



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

Please place the following letter in Council File # 17-0117

Dana Sherrod <dsherrod@publicstrategies.org>

Thu, Jun 8, 2017 at 10:49 AM

To: Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org

Cc: Jorge Castillo <jorgec@alcoholjustice.org>, Sarah Blanch <sblanch@publicstrategies.org>

Good morning Ms. Dickinson,

Please file the attached letter in CF 17-0117 Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistricts (ARUS)/ Conditional Use Permits.

Thank you.

—

Best,

Dana Sherrod, MPH

Institute for Public Strategies

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ARUS Letter (1).pdf
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Institute for Public Strategies

May 29, 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,

For over 25 years, the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) has worked with communities throughout the United States and Mexico to increase public health and safety by advocating for sustainable, systemic environmental change policies. We work collaboratively with various advocacy groups including the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (LA DAPA) to formulate and advance policies that mitigate community harms stemming from excessive alcohol availability.

Los Angeles, like many California municipalities, is heavily over concentrated with alcohol retail establishments. With over 900 new alcohol applications in the City of Los Angeles, communities experiencing greater alcohol harms should have tools to protect and prevent further problems.

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,


James Baker, President
Institute for Public Strategies
Los Angeles

Promoting Vibrant, Healthy & Safe Communities

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