

Dear Councilmember Koretz and Council President Wesson,

I am writing to you in advance of the Animal Welfare and Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2019. At which a discussion of the proposed fur ban, Council file# 18-0538, has been put on the agenda. to ask for your support in my request for a compromise solution that would enable me to stay in business, while protecting my employees, continuing to offer the citizens of Los Angeles the services we provide. The Committee and Council should consider, that while I strongly oppose passage of the Ordinance, I am left with no choice, but to request that businesses that are currently, and have been, actively in the business of exclusively selling or hand crafting fur products, be allowed to continue such activities until such time as we voluntarily decide to close our operations.

Consider this a request for a "grandfather" clause. Specifically, if the Council feels that it must move forward with the ban, then implement the ban by not issuing any new business licenses for new parties to enter into the fur retail business, while allowing the few of us who have invested our lives in this business, the freedom to continue as in our case, we have for the past 69 years. If you must pass this Ordinance, there should be no reasonable basis for arguing that this compromised position is unfair to the people who have sold fur in this City for decades.

Sometimes change is good. We recognized this when Governor Brown, before the end of his term, enacted his carbon free energy law. He allowed for this change to go into effect by the year 2045. This was a fair approach in that it provided time for people and businesses to adjust and plan ahead. The change he has defined by law appropriately meets the rationale of protecting the citizens' health and safety. On the other hand, as I consider California State Constitution, I fail to see any adequate rationale as to how a ban on the sale and production of fur products, remotely protects our city's citizens' health and safety! The ordinance is arbitrary and capricious in its current form, and unenforceable in its implementation. Furthermore, the amount of time this ordinance has given us to halt our business activities -- 24 months -- is unfair and inadequate. When you have been in business, as in my case for 69 years, in a business that is seasonal, those 24 months only consist of approximately 6 months: November and December of 2019; January through March of 2020; as well as November and December of 2020.

We must notify the thousands of our customers who have had their coats in storage with us for decades; we must find new jobs for our employees who are highly skilled in an ancient craft industry that has defined the history of our country; and in our particular case, we must try to sell our commercial building in your re-development district in a down-trending market. At the very least, I request this phasing out period to be appropriately extended to a 15-year period, so that we may continue to operate just as we have done so in this City for most of our lives.

We have written to, and invited the members of Council to contact us; ask questions and visit us at our businesses, so we may show you how wrong this Ordinance is; and communicate to you how the Ordinance has been based on highly inaccurate and disparaging information. I have had not one response to these offers. I have had the privilege of speaking to many of the Councilmembers directly or their staffs; however I have had no response from the Office of the Chairman of this Committee, which has the responsibility of determining the impact of this legislation. I request fairness in this process, as the largest furrier in this City, the opportunity to

meet or speak with you directly, and the members of your committee. We only ask that this process be fair and democratic, so that we may at least attempt to educate you on the exact nature of our businesses. I find it troubling that you have done little due diligence on an Ordinance that puts such a great burden on ourselves and our employees, as well as the many trickle down businesses and consumers that we support. Surely, this legislative process demands that due diligence be completed, and that the over the top allegations that have falsely disparaged our business be reviewed.

If this Ordinance is passed without any consideration of compromise, as discussed above, I provide notice on behalf of my business that I will challenge this ordinance to the fullest extent of the law. The law of the State of California provides legal remedies for those who are greatly harmed by Ordinances, which are neither supported by fact or law, discriminate against our businesses, and which are based on the false assertions of extremists who fundamentally oppose animal use.

Rather, the Ordinance undermines the transactional and contract rights of individuals in the City of Los Angeles who enjoy fur products or establish a business in which fur products are sold. There is nothing bad associated with the fur industry in the city of Los Angeles, or any other place in the United States. Indeed, the fur industry is an international business, strictly monitored in the U.S. by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior and state departments of agriculture and, in California, by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The fur industry does not force or coerce anyone to buy or wear fur. Unlike our opponents, who bully and harass anyone who sells or wears fur, we respect the rights of those who choose not to. In Los Angeles, and elsewhere, the fur industry has been entrenched in our history and society. One of the oldest precepts of jurisprudence is the law which respects the right of persons to enter into contracts to buy and sell products. There are thousands of contracts made and entered into in the City of Los Angeles every day. If this Ordinance passes, thousands in our community will have no ability to clean, maintain, preserve or alter their owned furs, or the heritage furs that have been handed down from one generation to the next because without a retail component we simply cannot afford to say in business in Los Angeles.

The right to contract in business is one of the fundamental rights in our society. It is the basis of a functional, market-based economy, which depends on freedom of choice. I hope to hear from you before the meeting on Wednesday, and if you are unable to do so, perhaps you can reschedule your Committee meeting until such time as we can discuss this issue further.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

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Submitted in PAW Committee
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Deputy: Adam R. Lid