

Communication from Public

Name: Adelene Bertha
Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 02:43 PM
Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Adelene Bertha, I am a community organizer for United Coalition East a prevention program of Social Model Recovery Systems. On behalf of our coalition membership, and as members of the Good Food Economy Workgroup, we express strong support for the adoption of Council Motion #18-1007 to establish a Good Food Zones policy. A Good Food Zone policy is needed for two reasons: to expand fresh food access in neighborhoods with limited food options, and to increase economic opportunity for historically underserved communities. One in three low-income residents in Los Angeles struggle to access healthy food in their neighborhood. Food access disparities impact residents' health, life expectancy, academic performance and job productivity. These disparities are most notable in Los Angeles' communities of color. For example, in South Los Angeles there are few grocery stores, high rates of diabetes and the life expectancy is 12 years less on average than that of West Los Angeles residents. These disparities are reflected in Skid Row and Boyle Heights, communities we serve through our prevention advocacy. For years we have advocated for limits on alcohol and marijuana access, increased community resources, local programming, local hiring, and increased healthy food options. I urge you to support Council Motion #18-1007 as it will provide a much-needed amenity that we hope will one day extend to our neighborhood in Skid Row.

Communication from Public

Name: Ana Guzman

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 11:35 AM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Ana Guzman and I am a resident of South LA, a mother of 5, a health educator serving families in the Good Food Zone for over 4 years, as well as Family and Community Partnerships Manager at FEAST, a nonprofit organization in the proposed Good Food Zone that combines Food, Education, Access and Support, together, to help families live sustainably healthier lives. I am a member of the Good Food Economy Working Group for LA Food Policy Council. I stand behind the Good Food Zone because it will generate a healthy economy through fair business practices, job creation, entrepreneurship training and investment in local business owner, addressing decades of old disparities and disinvestment in communities of color. It will also create positive community health outcomes by increasing access to affordable, fresh food for local residents. Once approved, the policy's dual focus on economic revitalization and community health has the power to reshape our families futures, creating a foundation for real wellness for generations to come.

My name is Ana Guzman and I am a resident of South LA/a mother of 5 a health educator serving families in the good food zone for over 4 years, as well as Family and Community Partnerships Manager at FEAST, a nonprofit organization in the proposed Good Food Zone that combines Food Education, Access and Support, Together, to help families live sustainably healthier lives.

I am a member of the Good Food Economy Working Group for LA Food Policy Council. I stand behind the Good Food Zone because it will generate a healthy economy through fair business practices, job creation, entrepreneurship training and investment in local business owners, addressing decades' old disparities and disinvestment in communities of color.

It will also create positive community health outcomes by increasing access to affordable, fresh foods for local residents.

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Communication from Public

Name: Ronnell Hampton

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:07 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Hello my name is Ronnell Hampton. I am here with the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's Good Food Economy Working Group. The GFZ Policy is a step in the right direction to make sure food is accessible, sustainable, affordable, and healthy for all. For too long food access has been impacted by race based practices like redlining. How our environments are built, impacts how we experience our communities. How many schools, parks, and healthy food retailers impact our health, and it determines if we live in a food desert. This divestment was deliberate, strategic, and intentional. This divestment is what created the food deserts in our communities. This means that the solutions created to address food apartheid have to be just as deliberate, just as strategic, just as intentional. Our hope is that the passing and funding of the Good Food Zone will take a step towards addressing the systemic impacts of food divestment and the food insecurity that results.

Communication from Public

Name: Todd Cunningham

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:08 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Todd Cunningham, from LA CAN and the LA Food Policy Council's Good Food Economy Working Group. Today, we bring voices representing the experiences and learnings from the frontlines of the fight for food justice in support of establishing a Good Food Zone Policy. A critical first step toward its success is recognizing food is a human right no matter your race, creed or outlook. In support of this policy is a commitment to good food through... Access to Education that includes nutrition information accompanying fresh, healthy food and ways to find good food at trusted, affordable prices for those facing food insecurity Access to Places that welcome participation through the burgeoning network of sustainable farms, markets and merchants where good food is easily available Access to Employment-friendly Experiences in which leadership development opportunities emerge to transfer skills and experiences back to one's community for long-term job creation It is incumbent on us to continue learning more and to share that knowledge with others. We envision this pilot leading to a Good Food Economy with high-impact benefits. We ask for your support of the passage of the Good Food Zone Policy.

Communication from Public

Name: Ana-Alicia Carr
Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:12 PM
Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon economic and workforce dev committee members, my name is Ana-Alicia Carr, Community Impact Director with the American Heart Association and a member of the Good Food Zone workgroup. As an organization whose mission is to create a world of longer, healthier lives, we at AHA see healthy food as a vital contributor to making this mission a reality. We recognize the important role a nutritious diet rich in fruit and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and low in unhealthy fats, added sugar and sodium plays in the prevention and management of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. Healthy food is a fundamental driver of positive health outcomes and longevity yet access to healthy food and life expectancy remain highly inequitable among Angelinos. Residents in South LA have an average life expectancy nearly 10 years less than residents in West LA, unsurprisingly Black and brown communities also have fewer grocery stores, supermarkets and healthy food businesses. Systemic and Environmental improvements to the food landscape are needed in targeted areas to increase the availability of high quality, nutritious foods for communities in need. We urge you to take this important step in creating equitable opportunities for healthy food access for all communities and supporting the good food zone legislation.

Communication from Public

Name: Grace Song

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:15 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Grace Song, Policy Analyst at Community Health Councils and a member of the Good Food Economy Working Group We support the Good Food Zone policy for a number of reasons: The policy will greatly increase access to fresh, healthy food and tackle food insecurity that many of our communities in South LA still experience today We know that nearly a third of households in South LA experience food insecurity every day, a much higher percentage compared to other neighborhoods across the city This means that families, often with children, need to make difficult decisions like paying the rent or putting food on their table The Good Food Zone policy would not only address food insecurity in the short-term, but promote positive long-term changes With more affordable and accessible food in our communities, families can save their dollars for other basic household needs, the prevalence of chronic illnesses due to poor diet would decrease, and children would miss less school days and have a higher likelihood of graduating For these reasons and beyond, we ask for your support of the Good Food Zone policy

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha Salmon

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:21 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Over the last 10 years, Los Angeles neighborhoods have undergone unprecedented change. Expanding public transit options and the increased interest in urban life have transformed neighborhoods that once had limited desirability into attractive places to live and work. This has meant an escalation of rents resulting in the displacement of many residents and business owners in low-income communities across Los Angeles. Through this policy LISC LA and the LA Food Policy Council's Good Food Economy Working Group is supporting small and culturally relevant businesses in our Low and Middle Income communities. Almost 126,000 people are employed in the food preparation and serving related occupations in Los Angeles. Support of this policy will not only help the business owners succeed, grow and provide healthy options to the community that need it most, but also have a cascading effect supporting the nearly 126,000 jobs in the City.

Communication from Public

Name: Lyric Kelkar

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:21 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon, my name is Lyric Kelkar and I work at an organization called Inclusive Action for the City. I am a member of the Good Food Economy Working group and am here to support the passing of the Good Food Zone. I would like to uplift the important role that this policy will play in providing opportunities for economic development and growth, especially for micro and small businesses that provide much needed access to healthy food in Los Angeles. The Good Food Zone policy provides the possibility of a tiered incentive program that can help boost the distribution of healthy food, and also provide needed technical assistance and capital to the micro-businesses that often have compounded barriers to success. Further, this policy will also push forward a more equitable sidewalk vending program, proving that its intersectional approach is a model example of how policy can meet multiple needs at once. The impact that this policy can have on small and micro businesses is immense, and will not only support and prioritize existing residents and businesses, but also provide the means necessary for the social fabric of the neighborhoods to stay in tact, while also expanding the economic growth of commercial areas. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Valeria Velazquez Duenas

Date Submitted: 02/10/2020 01:59 PM

Council File No: 18-1007

Comments for Public Posting: I am Valeria Velazquez Duenas, Senior Program Manager of Farmers' Market Programs with SEE-LA and founding member of Across Our Kitchen Tables. Through my work with SEE-LA and Across Our Kitchen Tables, I strive to help build equitable food systems that offer increased food access for historically marginalized communities, and advancement opportunities for food entrepreneurs, particularly women and entrepreneurs of Color. I am voicing my support for the passing and funding of Good Food Zones (18-1007) as a mechanism to ensure that our city takes decisive action to signal that we have our priorities in the right place as they pertain to economic opportunity and fair food systems for all Angelenos. It's clear that more investment is needed in women and entrepreneurs of color - the most startling statistic I've seen recently demonstrates this systemic lack of investment, across the board in our country-only about 2.1% of capital goes directly to women entrepreneurs, for Latinx and African American female entrepreneurs the percentage is even lower. L.A.'s food economy is powered by many skilled and talented women and entrepreneurs of color who face barriers for sustained business growth, and who deserve equitable access to resources, business and tax incentives, and investment to not only make their businesses sustainable, but to build healthy and strong communities. Good Food Zones (18-1007) will do just that, and I urge you to support this work.