



Administrative Office
3727 W. 6th Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90020
T: (213) 365-7400
F: (213) 927-0017
E: info@kycccla.org

April 12, 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. DAOA).

Koreatown Youth and Community Center has served Koreatown and surrounding communities for over 41 years. Alcohol prevention has been a focal point of our work as an agency that is deeply engaged in youth development and building resilient communities. As a member of L.A. DAPA, we fully support the passage of the Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict (ARUS) ordinance.

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.



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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 the3 motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ho Song', written in a cursive style.

John Ho Song
Executive Director
Koreatown Youth and Community Center