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CALIFORNIA



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April 12, 2022

Kevin De León  
Councilmember,  
Council District 14

VIA EMAIL

**RE: Request for Restaurant Beverage Program in Downtown Los Angeles**

Councilmember De León:

At our regularly held public meeting on April 12, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Downtown restaurant and hospitality industry community was heavily impacted by not only 'shut-downs' to curb the spread of the virus, but at times also saw decreasing sales as people stayed home. Unfortunately, many businesses were unable to recover, but those who have often relied on the sale of alcohol to help increase sales and profit margins.

The introduction of the Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) Downtown would reduce the cost and time required to open small new restaurants and all for a more equitable process for small businesses that struggle with financial burden when applying for CUB licenses from the City. To this day, many of our small businesses are barely hanging on, and the introduction of the RBP would greatly help recovery efforts.

As of March of 2022, eight Council Districts introduced resolutions to include portions of their district in the RBP program. We must do the same to ensure that the vibrant business community is maintained and protected in our community.

We believe that the RBP should be included to encompass the downtown core within the boundaries of CD14, with the exception of the area known as Central City East / Skid Row as defined in the DTLA 2040 as 1X 1 zone. Due to the sensitive social issues presented by the Skid Row community, the RBP must be excluded in this area to ensure the safe and healthy recovery of those who experience or are recovering from substance abuse issues is not impeded.

I heretofore, DLANC urges Council District 14 to introduce a resolution to Council to include Downtown Los Angeles into the Restaurant Beverage Program to help and aid the recovery of the hospitality and restaurant industries from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Claudia Oliveira  
President,  
DLANC



Ryan Afari  
Chair,  
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee

CC: Department of City Planning  
Historic Core Business Improvement District  
Downtown Center Business Improvement District  
Fashion District Business Improvement District  
South Park Business Improvement District