



LONG BEACH
HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE

DATE: September 19, 2017

TO: Members of City Council
Long Beach City Hall
333 W Ocean Blvd, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

FROM: Long Beach Hospitality Alliance

On behalf of the members of the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance, we respectfully ask you to reject Agenda Item 22. It is clear this ordinance is not based on fact but rather unfairly targets a segment of hotels in our city that have enacted many safety features for their employees and guests.

The hospitality industry prioritizes safety for our guests and each of our employees. In fact, the hotels targeted in the proposed ordinance have done more to ensure employees safety than many other businesses. They have provided panic buttons for house keepers and have enacted safety training programs for employees that are aimed to keeping employees safe.

If the advocates of this proposed measure sincerely wanted more safety measures, why not reach out to the hotels and determine ways to address their concerns. Instead they turn to a proposed ordinance that targets the hotels that have enacted additional safety measures.

While some advocates may say that the hospitality industry can not leave Long Beach, the reality is that this measure will harm jobs and make it more costly to do business in the city. More costs make it more difficult to operate in the city and also create a disincentive for other businesses looking to relocate to Long Beach.

The proposed ordinance has additional provisions that have little to do with safety. Some of these provisions establish unnecessary mandates, which force hotels into choosing between the safety of their guests versus the safety of their employees. For example, the ordinance would create a blacklist of all guests accused of sexual harassment. It would violate the constitutional rights of guests and put hotels at risk of costly lawsuits.

Furthermore, the arbitrary mandate on the number of square feet that each employee should clean has nothing to do with safety. This is just a power play by the unions.

We are 100 percent supportive of increasing safety of our guests and employees. However this proposed ordinance does not advance safety. We urge the City Council to reject the proposed ordinance so that we can move forward with programs that actually improve safety and create opportunity for every resident and visitor of Long Beach.

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About Long Beach Hospitality Alliance (LBHA)

LBHA is a member-based coalition working on behalf of hotel and restaurant operators and tourism related services throughout the city of Long Beach. The Long Beach Hospitality Alliance (LBHA) is a business council under the auspices of The Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. The LBHA represents the local hospitality and restaurant industry and serves as a liaison to the greater Long Beach area community which includes, but is not limited to: all areas of city, state and federal government; local media; special constituency groups and related tourism entities and organizations.