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Larry Forester
1923 Molino Ave., No. 204
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City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attn: Mayor and City Council

May 5, 2009

Re. May 5, 2009 Council Agenda

Support for Hearings Item 1 (09-0431)

Dear Mayor and Council Members;

I wish I could stay in attendance for this item; but, my Closed Session begins at 6:00pm. I strongly support overturning the Planning Commission's ruling...a ruling which was a 3/3 tie.

I have been going to the The Paradise since 1984 and appreciate what Michael Barber has created in the last several years. I am proud to take guests to The Paradise for dinner and entertainment including my parents and many of my fellow electeds. In fact our Mayor, Ellen Ward; and, Vice-Mayor John Noguez of Huntington Park used The Paradise to entertain the LGBT Caucus of the League of California Cities during the Annual Meeting in Long Beach.

Parking has always been a major concern in this area, in fact when the original "Paradise" opened in the early 80's three friends living in the area got "Harriman Jones" to open their Parking Lot in the evenings to patrons and residents. But I am told the "Rite-Aid" Corporation has chosen not honor this agreement.

Mr. Barber has decided to go the expense of buying the home off the "Rite-Aid" parking lot, 1831 2nd Street, and create a valet parking lot for The Paradise (and residents after hours). This home has been empty and deteriorating for last several years.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter and supporting the new parking lot. If you have not been to The Paradise recently, please visit and enjoy some wonderful food and great piano entertainment.

Thank you



Larry Forester