



Legislation Text

File #: 20-1145, Version: 1

WITHDRAWN

~~Recommendation to direct City Attorney to draft a resolution to Governor Newsom urging for the expansion of in-door dining at 25% capacity for all restaurants in counties within the purple tier; and~~

~~Direct City Manager and all appropriate departments to identify and participate in ongoing advocacy efforts currently underway, urging Governor Newsom and other relevant State agencies, on behalf of Long Beach and Long Beach based restaurants, to allow restaurants operating in "Purple Tier" counties to operate indoors at 25% indoor capacity.~~

There is no doubt that the COVID 19 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on businesses throughout the City of Long Beach and in particular our local restaurant industry. The current state health guidelines prohibit opening Long Beach restaurants for indoor dining until the County of Los Angeles moves into the "Red Tier" as defined by the Governor's most recent health order.

Long Beach is a major urban city and considering our hospitalization and positivity rates, we are not dissimilar to cities in nearby communities that are in the red tier based on their county designation. This reality has produced very unfair and illogical outcomes, given that businesses within 2 miles of each other, offering the same service and engaged in the same activities, are treated inconsistently.

Currently, restaurants throughout Long Beach are prohibited from operating indoors, leaving outdoor and parklet dining as the only options. With the change in whether that we have already experienced, including high winds, rain and colder temperatures, and with approaching winter months, there will be even further declines in restaurant attendance given the outdoor dining constraints.

Other industries throughout the State, such as nail salons, hair salons and tattoo parlors, have all successfully advocated for exemptions or modification under the current State orders. Restaurants should be considered in this conversation.

The Council hereby asks that the City Manager and his staff identify efforts currently underway throughout the State by the restaurant industry, weigh the efficacy of joining in such advocacy efforts and otherwise find ways to lobby the Governor and relevant State Agencies to seek similar exemptions including but not limited to allowing restaurants to operate at 25% indoor capacity while in the "Purple Tier".

In undertaking this effort, the Council directs the City Manager to work with local restaurants, restaurant associations such as the LBRA and others, and other stakeholders to join in such efforts.

The Council is requesting a report back on December 8, 2020.

We further request that the City Attorney draft a resolution for Council's consideration urging the governor to consider allowing restaurants to operate indoors at 25% capacity for restaurants operating in a county that is in the purple tier.

Due to the urgency of this item, no fiscal analysis was conducted.

STATEMENT OF URGENCY

Approval of this recommendation is urgent due to the ongoing financial impact to our restaurant industry.

Approve recommendation.

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STACY MUNGO
COUNCILWOMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT