



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Rex Richardson and City Councilmembers  
411 W Ocean Blvd, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: AGENDA ITEM #15 Establish New Regulations for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs)**

Dear Honorable Long Beach Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance's (DTLB Alliance) Board of Directors, we write in support of the proposed Zoning Code Amendments to Title 21 and Title 5 establishing regulations for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs) in the City of Long Beach.

The DTLB Alliance represents more than 1,400 businesses and 4,000 commercial and residential property owners within the two Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Downtown Long Beach. As one of the leading voices for the Downtown community, we support the City Council taking this important step to implement a local framework for MEHKOs that aligns with state law while creating clear rules of the road for home-based food entrepreneurs.

Downtown Long Beach is home to more than 200 brick-and-mortar restaurants and bars and serves as the City's Dining and Entertainment District. Our district also welcomes a growing ecosystem of sidewalk vendors and mobile food operators who contribute to the city's vibrant culinary culture. However, access to commercial kitchen space can present a significant barrier to entry for many aspiring food entrepreneurs. While ghost and shared kitchens provide valuable resources, the associated rental rates and service fees remain cost prohibitive for many small businesses.

Establishing a local MEHKO program creates a more equitable pathway for entrepreneurs to safely launch food businesses from their home kitchens while complying with health and safety standards. These regulations provide a structured entry point into the formal economy, allowing small-scale operators to test concepts, build a customer base, and grow toward larger opportunities such as food trucks, pop-ups, and eventually brick-and-mortar locations.

Long Beach is a recognized culinary destination, home to everything from street vendors to Michelin-starred establishments. As the second-largest city in Los Angeles County, with food and accommodation services representing a major part of our local economy, it is critical that we support policies that reduce barriers to entry, encourage entrepreneurship, and reflect the cultural diversity of our food community.



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We appreciate the City's leadership in advancing these regulations and look forward to the City Council's consideration on March 10, 2026. We are confident that establishing a clear and equitable MEHKO framework will strengthen Long Beach's small business ecosystem and expand opportunities for local food entrepreneurs.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Austin Metoyer  
President & CEO

DTLB Alliance Board of Directors  
Mayor Rex Richardson, Mayor of the City of Long Beach  
Councilwoman Mary Zendejas, First Council District, City of Long Beach  
Tom Modica, City Manager, City of Long Beach  
Christopher Koontz, Director of Community Development, City of Long Beach