



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

December 8, 2020

Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council  
Civic Center Plaza  
411 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: R-32 Restaurant, Brewery & Bar Resiliency Fund

Dear Mayor and Members of Long Beach City Council,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach (DLBA) Board of Directors and enter into the public record for the City Council meeting scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, support for the creation of a \$5 million Restaurant, Brewery & Bar Resiliency Fund from the next federal COVID-19 stimulus fund package.

Increased funding opportunities are sorely needed for restaurants, breweries, and bars in Downtown Long Beach. The hospitality and food service has been the single hardest hit industry in Downtown as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis. According to the Q4 2020 Economic Impact Survey released by DLBA, Downtown Hospitality, Accommodation, and Food Service businesses laid off an average of 19 full time employees since March 2020, and 53% reported an inability to pay bills and/or fees. Downtown entrepreneurs and employees are facing serious financial uncertainty; substantial direct funding from the City can provide a meaningful step towards recovery and resiliency.

DLBA supports the Mayor's request for the creation of a Resiliency Fund. If such funding becomes available via federal stimulus, we ask that awards are not restricted from businesses who have already received CARES Act funding, and that program eligibility requirements do not impose a limit on employee size. We look forward to the continued discussion and refinement of the proposed program, and hope that the Council considers this issue paramount and time-sensitive given the current circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian  
President & CEO

Cc: DLBA Board of Directors

