



**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: Agenda Item #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 8th, 2020, our 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, wineries, breweries and bars in Downtown Long Beach. The hospitality and food service industry 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, each Downtown hospitality, accommodation, and food service business laid off an average of 19 full time employees since March 2020, and 53% reported an inability to pay bills and/or fees. Downtown small business owners and employees are facing serious financial uncertainty; substantial direct funding made available by the City can provide a meaningful step towards 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 funds are not restricted from those businesses who have received previous CARES Act dollars either through the City of Long Beach or County of Los Angeles previous grant programs. In addition, we ask that the program eligibility requirements do not impose a maximum limit on the employee size of the business applying.

We look forward to the continued discussion and refinement of the proposed program, and hope that the City Council considers this issue paramount and time-sensitive given the current circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian
President & CEO

1.38 Un-Square Miles

Cc: Tom Modica, City Manager, City of Long Beach
DLBA Board of Directors