

**GREATER CYPRESS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
1150 Cypress Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90065
<https://cypressparknc.com/>

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**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
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GREATER CYPRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

April 9, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To: Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez; Councilmember Kevin De Leon; Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson; Mayor Karen Bass

RE: Restaurant Beverage Program, Council File Number: 17-0981

The Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) represents stakeholders who reside, own property or conduct business in the neighborhood of Cypress Park. The GCPNC Board voted at its General Board meeting held April 9, 2024 to approve this Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding the Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP).

Council File 17-0981 (the RBP Ordinance) seeks to expedite the administrative determination process (from 6 months down to 2 weeks) for Conditional Use Permits (CUB) sought by restaurants eligible deemed by the program. This City of Los Angeles ordinance accelerates the approval process for licenses to serve alcoholic beverages while eliminating the public hearing portion of the process.

In addition to not being required or asked to conduct public hearings within neighborhoods applicants wish to serve, applications under RBP would not be subject to CEQA review or appeals according to the March 21, 2018 report by the Planning Department. Providing a platform for community input and protecting public hearing portions of city processes is of utmost importance to our council. Therefore, the GCPNC **does not support the streamlined CUB ordinance** for the following reasons:

- The proposed process does not include public hearings nor an appeals process
- The Planning Department dismissed development of multiple sets of standards for different neighborhoods based on density of existing Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)
- An opting-out option in RBP has not been articulated for neighborhoods adopted into RBP
- Exterior advertising of alcohol licenses approved through the program has not been established in the ordinance nor is there language in the same that prohibits signage advertising alcoholic beverages within the applicant's restaurant or in other words, there is no established way for stakeholders to directly report violations nor a standard set to prevent alcoholic beverages from being the primary focus of the establishment
- Happy hours or drink specials are not prohibited with the program
- There are insufficient enforcement resources (both local and State) to ensure both conditional use permit and alcohol license adhere to operating restrictions or comply with existing ABC (California Alcohol Beverage Control Department) standards
- The proposed ordinance does not have a requirement for applicants to provide verifiable proof that their primary residence is within the City of Los Angeles

We recognize that Council District 1 is the sole district to not have been adopted into the program, and thus urge the Mayor's Office, our City Council representative and its Committees to maintain the current CUB entitlement process for our district to ensure our stakeholders and council have the opportunity to provide community input in decision making processes surrounding alcohol establishments approved in our neighborhood.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Thank you,

The Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council
GCPNC@empowerla.org