



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Holly J. Mitchell
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Commissioners

Chair

Joan Patsy Ostroy
Third District

Vice Chair

Gregory Gorman
Second District

Farrell J. Chiles
First District

Mark Ramos
First District

Mike Gomez
First District

Eugene Hale
Second District

Ronnie Jayne
Second District

Michelle Katz
Third District

Charline Sistrunk
Fourth District

Mark Waronek
Fourth District

Scott Houston
Fourth District

Vivian Chan
Fifth District

Daniel Deng
Fifth District

Harry Leon
Fifth District

January 20, 2022

Rafael Carbajal, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs
320 W. Temple St. Room G-10, Los Angeles CA, 90012

SUBJECT: Supporting Countywide Programs and Initiatives to Combat Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County

Dear Director Carbajal:

At the regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission (CAAC) held on November 18, 2021, the CAAC motioned and unanimously voted to request that the County of Los Angeles and the Board of Supervisors (Board) implement and support programs and initiatives that aid in combating food insecurity across Los Angeles County. More than ever, and as further complicated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of food insecurity, including food deserts, food swamps, access to affordable food options and the effect of inflation on people with limited income dependent upon SNAP/Food Stamps has become a central issue for the various cities, communities, and neighborhoods of Los Angeles County. On behalf of the CAAC, I hereby make such request.

BACKGROUND

For calendar year 2021, the CAAC approved and implemented five (5) Commission goals. The fifth goal implemented is to ascertain the consumer needs of each Supervisorial District through interaction with members of the public, followed by describing how these needs are being met, or should be met, by Los Angeles County. What began as a need brought up by the 2nd Supervisorial District, became recognized through Commission discussion, as an entire County need.

After much discussion, the following suggestions/programs are supported by the CAAC:

1. Support local food growers on a County level
2. Allow pilot programs to permit Grocery Trucks (the size of food trucks), that could (similar to the old Helms Bread Trucks) bring fresh groceries into



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Holly J. Mitchell
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Commissioners

Chair

Joan Patsy Ostroy
Third District

Vice Chair

Gregory Gorman
Second District

Farrell J. Chiles
First District

Mark Ramos
First District

Mike Gomez
First District

Eugene Hale
Second District

Ronnie Jayne
Second District

Michelle Katz
Third District

Charline Sistrunk
Fourth District

Mark Waronek
Fourth District

Scott Houston
Fourth District

Vivian Chan
Fifth District

Daniel Deng
Fifth District

Harry Leon
Fifth District

neighborhoods with few fresh food options nearby. These Mobile Markets could go down streets in the neighborhoods, or place themselves in a parking lot or park -- same time/s every week, with locally-grown produce. This would help the local growers, local entrepreneurs and families with convenient fresh fruits and vegetables.

Therefore, the CAAC remains strongly and unequivocally in support of initiatives and food programs, as exemplified above, that would provide the much needed support, assistance and resources to Los Angeles County consumers and residents. The CAAC further believes that by increasing the access to better and more affordable food options, the County can address the ongoing need to create equity, diversity, and inclusion. The CAAC hereby requests that this letter of recommendation be sent to the Board recommending that the County of Los Angeles and the Board further explore ways to address food insecurity for consumers and residents of the County.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Your recommendation (with this letter attached) to the Board at the earliest possible date would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joan Patsy Ostroy
Chair, Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission