# NOHO NEWS

**A Quarterly Publication of the**

**North Hollywood Business Improvement District**



## New Law Makes It Easier For LA Restaurants To Get Alcohol Licenses

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt the proposed Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) Ordinance. Upon its effective date, the RBP Ordinance will create two administrative clearance processes for sit-down restaurants to serve alcohol without a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) if they meet more than 50 eligibility criteria, performance standards, and enforcement procedures. The proposed process can be completed in a fraction of the time and cost it takes to complete a CUP, but still includes good neighbor and security requirements typically required in a CUP as well.

With the global outbreak of COVID-19, restaurant owners have shifted to take-out, grocery service, and to-go sales of beer, wine, and cocktails to stay afloat. The profit margin from alcohol sales has provided restaurateurs with some temporary relief during the pandemic. The proposed Restaurant Beverage Program will build on the City's efforts to provide relief, offering long-term financial incentives designed to support jobs and business in Los Angeles.

The program shortens the time required for City approvals from months to weeks, helping restaurant owners get up and running faster. The ordinance will also reduce the cost of an alcohol permit from approximately $13,000 to approximately $4,000. Eligible restaurant owners will still be subject to operational standards as well as mandatory monitoring and inspections to ensure compliance.

Nightclubs, bars, and liquor stores would not be eligible for the Restaurant Beverage Program. They would continue to apply through a separate discretionary process involving a public hearing and extensive community input.

In order to apply, restaurant owners must meet specific eligibility criteria and comply with a number of operating standards. These standards are intended to filter out business models that would benefit from additional review and ultimately not qualify under the program's streamlined approval process. Some key provisions include:

– Eligibility Restrictions: Only restaurants with an operational kitchen and a full menu are eligible.
Food must be served during all operating hours.
– Hours of Operation: Hours of operation must be limited to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
– Entertainment: No live entertainment, dancing, karaoke, DJs, or outdoor. TV monitors or music are permitted. Only ambient indoor music is allowed.
– Lighting: A minimum amount of interior and exterior lighting is required.
– Staff Training: All employers and employees must complete alcohol service training.
– Security: Restaurants are required to install a camera surveillance system and maintain a complaint log. Graffiti and litter must be removed.
– Enforcement Measures: The restaurant must participate in the City's Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Program (MViP)—a proactive enforcement program designed to inspect participants and report any violations to the Department of Building and Safety or the Police Department.

Businesses that do not qualify, or that wish to operate beyond the proposed restrictions, would still be able to apply for a conditional use permit.

Click here for a draft of the ordinance. For more information regarding the RBP Ordinance, please visit the Proposed Land Use Regulations page on the LA City website and scroll down to "Restaurant Beverage Program Ordinance."

If you have any questions, please contact Roberto Luna at roberto.luna@lacity.org and reference case no. CPC-2018-4660-CA.

## Things to do in the Arts District

### North Hollywood Farmer's Market

SATURDAY 9:30am to 2:30pm
@ NoH0

The NoHo Arts District Farmers Market is a festive, family-friendly, open-air marketplace. We are a non-profit organization, committed to bringing fresh, locally-grown food to the surrounding neighborhood.

## 1st Quarter Clean Team Stats



5026 Lankershim Blvd.North Hollywood, CA 91601

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**Service Hotline: 818.761.8230**