

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS  
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September 15, 2020

**Protecting Food Delivery Workers and Consumers**

Due to the health orders put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants have been restricted in their operations, and mostly prohibited from allowing dine-in operations. Because of these restrictions, restaurants and food establishments across Los Angeles County have relied heavily on delivery and pick-up services to stay in business. Food delivery platforms were already becoming increasingly popular before the pandemic struck and have now become a necessity for many restaurants. Furthermore, in response to the emergency orders, many County of Los Angeles residents are using food delivery services to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

Many food delivery platforms rely on business models that hire gig workers as independent contractors, which prevents access to many of the employee protections established by local, state, and federal law, and make gig workers highly vulnerable to economic insecurity and health or safety risks. Gig workers perform services on the frontlines of this devastating pandemic by making deliveries while working in hazardous

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situations. Although many workers in the food industry, such as those who prepare food in restaurants, are required to obtain safe food handler certifications, which provides basic food safety training. There is currently no safe food handling training required for food delivery drivers to operate in Los Angeles County.

On July 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to consider requiring Food Delivery Network Companies and their drivers to obtain an American National Standard Institute (ANSI) accredited food handler certification to operate in Los Angeles County. However, through stakeholder engagement and analysis, other potential solutions have been presented to provide health and safety education more specific to delivery drivers that will help protect both the workers and consumers. In particular, the University of California Berkeley Food Labor Research Center is developing an alternative food safety training model that is specific to food delivery drivers – while also highlighting worker’s rights, public health, LA County Laws & Ordinances, and undocumented worker protections.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, County Counsel, other relevant Departments, and the University of California Berkeley Food Labor Center to evaluate options to develop a standard Food Safety Training Program or other alternative training options that will effectively protect consumers and workers, as well as options to mandate that food delivery platforms operating in the County require delivery employees and independent contractors to take the standard training or other effective alternative trainings, and

report to the Board in writing in 60 days. This will be in lieu of the July 21, 2020 motion.

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HLS:ap