



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
31-B.		Favor	DAVID SCHINDLER	
			David M Repshas	



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31-B.		Favor	Nadia Segura	<p>Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. Natural disasters have a devastating impact on businesses, impeding economic viability across sectors. Small and micro businesses from underserved communities, who already face unequal access to credit and other historical barriers to institutional services and support, are especially hit hard.</p> <p>Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category. The impact of the recent LA wildfires (“LA Wildfires”) will have long-lasting effects on small businesses. The LA Wildfires have destroyed physical assets such as office buildings, retail stores, warehouses, and inventory. Mandatory evacuations and road closures often force businesses to shut down temporarily. This downtime can lead to lost revenue, disrupted supply chains, and delayed customer service. The LA Wildfires will displace employees, affecting their ability to work and disrupting workforce availability for small businesses. Businesses reliant on a local workforce may find it difficult to maintain operations.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek’s Small Business Development Program focuses on strengthening the economic base of underserved communities by providing free legal education and services to low-to-moderate income small business owners and entrepreneurs, with a focus on women, disabled, Veteran, immigrant, limited English speaking, LGBTQ, and BIPOC business owners.</p> <p>We work with hundreds of small businesses per year and in the last couple of days have already received requests for help from businesses affected by the LA Wildfires. We are writing in support of the motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell to direct the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to establish a Business Interruption Fund (BIF) to support businesses experiencing disruptions due to the LA Wildfires, as well as conduct culturally- and linguistically-inclusive outreach to affected businesses.</p> <p>A coordinated, equity-based approach is essential to inclusive economic recovery, we urge you to act now to protect small businesses in these difficult times.</p>
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31-B.		Favor	Quentin D Strode	<p>Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 500 West Temple Street Room 303 Los Angeles, CA 90012</p> <p>Chair and Honorable Members of the Board: As President and CEO of the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC), I urge the Board to designate the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) as the central point of contact for philanthropic and private sector support for economic recovery efforts stemming from the ongoing fire disaster. A coordinated, centralized approach is vital to ensure Los Angeles County effectively leverages philanthropic dollars for maximum impact on the workers and businesses most affected. This coordination will allow us to manage the risk of having a fragmented, inefficient response that fails to address the greatest needs or inadvertently duplicates efforts. We must commit to an economic recovery strategy that has equity embedded from the very beginning. Recovery efforts that do not prioritize our most vulnerable small businesses and workers will perpetuate inequities and deepen existing economic disparities. Small businesses owned by people of color are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, often experiencing prolonged closures and slower recovery. An equity-based approach to small business support is not only essential for their survival but also for the broader resilience of our local economy. Equally urgent is the need to stabilize our most vulnerable workers. The cash-based or hourly worker who make up a large portion of the county workforce including those in the domestic and care industries, construction and trades, tourism and service sectors, independent contractors, and those without required documentation are now left without income and with no clear path forward. We must act quickly to ensure they can meet their immediate needs, such as rent, groceries, and transportation.</p> <p>I respectfully call on the Board to take the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate the DEO as the central hub for philanthropic coordination to ensure economic recovery efforts are targeted and effective. 2. Implement an equity-first approach to prioritize vulnerable small businesses and workers from the outset of recovery efforts. 3. Provide immediate relief to impacted workers and families, including direct financial assistance for necessities. <p>Los Angeles County must lead with vision and urgency to create an inclusive and equitable recovery that uplifts our most impacted residents and businesses. VSEDC stands ready to collaborate with the County and community stakeholders in this critical effort.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and dedication to fostering economic resilience for all.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Quentin D Strode President and CEO Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation</p>
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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
31-B.		Favor	Shona Sen	
			Stephen Cheung	<p>The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) urges the Board to designate DEO as the central point of contact for philanthropic and private sector support for economic recovery from the ongoing fire disaster. As we have experienced during the pandemic, a coordinated, centralized approach is essential to ensure the County leverages philanthropic dollars for greatest impact to impacted workers and businesses. Without a central point-of-contact and coordination, we risk a piecemeal approach that does not address the greatest needs or duplicates efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need an economic development strategy that ensures equity and access. Beginning economic recovery without the most vulnerable small businesses and workers at the center can lead to inequitable outcomes and exacerbate economic existing disparities. • We must take an equity-based approach to small business supports because we know that small businesses owned by people of color can be more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and suffer longer closures compared to other small businesses. • Given that many small businesses are still recovering from the pandemic, the need for expedient supportive services will be vital to the survival of these small businesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The most vulnerable workers are currently without income with no end in sight. Cash-based or hourly workers, such as those in the domestic and care industry, in construction and the trades, in tourism and service industry, and independent contractors or those without required documentation. We must move quickly to stabilize affected workers and their families and ensure they can meet their immediate needs such as rent, groceries, gas, etc.
			Vivian Ponte-Fritz	
		Item Total	7	
Grand Total			7	