



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Allan Domb
Room 316, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-686-3414

Councilmember At-Large

June 21, 2021

Governor Tom Wolf
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Kim Ward, Majority Leader
Senate Box 203039
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Jake Corman, President Pro Tempore
350 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Bryan Cutler, Speaker of the House
139 Main Capitol Building, P.O. Box 202100
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Kerry A. Benninghoff, Majority Leader
110 Main Capitol Building, P.O. Box 202171
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Joanna E. McClinton, Minority Leader
423 Main Capitol Building, P.O. Box 202191
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf and Leaders of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

I am writing to you to request your continuing support for our restaurants and hospitality industry as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic by continuing to allow sales of cocktails to-go and alcohol sales at expanded outdoor dining locations.

Like all Pennsylvanians, we are happy and relieved to see restrictions safely lifted and normal life begin to resume. We are concerned however, that without your action to preserve expanded outdoor dining alcohol sales and to-go cocktail sales (mixed onsite), our restaurants will not be able to make it through this summer and experience a post-pandemic recovery. These options are necessary for us to bring back the lifestyle of the City and attract diners back to our restaurants. They also represent the kind of tools that will boost much-needed sales for restaurants who are facing financial ruin if they cannot make up losses felt from the pandemic restrictions. No other industry faced the kind of income shortfalls that our hospitality industry faced during the pandemic and we cannot afford to desert them now – just as they begin to come back to life.

When the Senate amended House Bill 1154 to include “ready-to-drink” cocktail sales, it immediately instigated market competition issues with our State-run wine and spirit distribution locations – issues that should not be debated as part of this bill, or in this moment. Privatization of our liquor sales is an entirely different dispute and our restaurants should not be sacrificed as part of that fight.

The City of Philadelphia needs your help and your commitment to bring back our hospitality industry. This will not happen effectively unless these issues are addressed immediately. Philadelphia’s financial



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

contributions to the Commonwealth are important to protect, and our hospitality industry is a key player in that revenue generation, but they need your support now more than ever.

I urge you take immediate legislative action that preserves cocktails to-go and alcohol sales in our outdoor dining spaces, while also eliminates any language allowing for ready-to-drink sales.

For 15 months, the General Assembly has voiced its support for our restaurants and hospitality industry. I ask that you now continue your support by ensuring bills that support outdoor dining and expanded alcohol sales advance and become law as quickly as possible, and before more damage is done to our Philadelphia restaurants' bottom lines.

Sincerely,

Allan Domb
Councilmember At-Large

Mark Squilla
Councilmember, District 1

Katherine Gilmore-Richardson
Councilmember At-Large

Councilmember Isaiah Thomas
Councilmember At-Large

Councilmember Derek Green
Councilmember At-Large

Cc: State Senator Mike Regan
State Senator Jim Brewster
State Representative Carl Metzgar
Melissa Bova, PRLA
Chris Naylor, UFCW 1776

State Senator Christine Tartaglione
State Representative Jason Dawkins
State Representative Dan Deasy
Wendell Young IV, UFCW 1776