

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 2 # 2

From: FLORES JAIME <j77.flores@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:01 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: FLORES JAIME
Subject: Public comment on Micro Kitchens Item #2
Attachments: Scan_2021_05_11_08_26_13_697.pdf



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Hello please see and distribute my public comment on the above item.

Thank you,

--
Jaime Flores

C- 805-720-5342

Good morning,

My name is Jaime Flores, local business owner. Being in the insurance industry part of my responsibility is to identify good risks that will be properly managed and profitable. Approval of this business model is going to create issues not just for liability but for the safety of our communities. In my industry a commercial risk like a cooking/food operation out of a residence is very likely to be uninsurable. There are certain protocols, extinguishing systems, experience, food handling and training programs that make a risk insurable. Our residential sewer and drain systems are not designed to handle things like restaurant waste water, grease, and other contaminants necessary to run a food operation.

On the flipside if an insurance company finds out or discovers a business like this is operating the carrier could drop coverage or even worse not cover a claim in the home or any damage caused to neighbors. Some homeowners and landlords have a contractual obligation to have insurance on their home due to their loan. If this passes you are putting several homeowners in a bad situation.

In the event world, a non-profit organization or promoter has to comply with so many Health department rules, pay for specialized equipment and pass an intense inspection before food can be served to the public. I on behalf of several business owners am asking you to reconsider passing and approving this agenda item.

Thank you for your time

Ramirez, Angelica

From: info@buellton.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: MEHKO

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

May 7, 2021

Honorable Bob Nelson, Chair
Chair
Supervisor
Supervisor

Honorable Joan Hartman, Vice
Honorable Gregg Hart,
Honorable Steve Lavagnino,
Honorable Das Williams, Supervisor

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Buellton Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our opposition and concerns with regards to Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations, (MEHKO's).

Given the past year with the pandemic, our restaurant establishments have had to endure a tremendous amount of loss and constant pivots that have been very costly. These restaurants have had to jump through hoops to accommodate the ever changing regulations and tiers as they maneuvered through this pandemic.

We feel by allowing these MEHKO's to operate out of their homes would be detrimental and damaging to our local restaurants and community. By allowing restaurant activity in a residential area at very minimal cost, is not productive nor helpful. We question if the restaurants have been notified of this proposal or if members of the community have been made aware that their neighbors may be allowed to start a restaurant service in their neighborhoods?

Restaurants are monitored and regulated very closely by the health department, they are inspected on a regular basis, they pay exorbitant fees for permits, rent, mortgage, labor, inventory, and overall overhead. Yet, these MEHKO's will only have to pay a small fraction of these costs and be allowed to operate with less oversight than a restaurant in a commercial brick and mortar. Doesn't seem fair, especially given the year they've all just gone through and continue to maneuver.

We would ask that the Board of Supervisors take a closer look at the damage this could cause our restaurants and do more outreach and research as to how businesses and members of the community would feel about such operations taking place in their neighborhoods. The rules should be fair for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Vreeland

Kathy Vreeland
Executive Director Buellton Chamber of Commerce