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Media Inquiries:
Pete Hillan
Phone: 831-227-5984
Email: pete@singersf.com

LA Council's Industry-Specific Restrictions Damaging to Tourism Recovery
Rushed actions without measured evaluations could lead to economic crisis for LA

LOS ANGELES, CA. – (April 21, 2020) – The Los Angeles City Council's proposed ordinances regarding "Right of Recall" and "Worker Retention" are an overreaching effort to micromanage how the hospitality industry can re-hire employees after the COVID-19 catastrophe. These ordinances do nothing to protect workers. Instead, these laws tie employers' hands in red tape, then open them up to litigation at a time when most business owners fear they may not ever be able to open their doors again.

Specifically, the ordinances single out the hotel industry despite other industries laying off larger numbers of workers. There have been nearly 36,000 employees laid off or furloughed in Los Angeles due to COVID-19, the majority of whom are non-hospitality related jobs. ([See the attached Los Angeles jobs report from the California Employment Development Department.](#))

"If the city truly wants to protect its workforce, they should engage all stakeholders and work toward a plan that doesn't destabilize our local hospitality community and exacerbate the economic crisis causing permanent business closures, permanent tax revenue loss for the city budget, and permanent job loss for Los Angeles workers," said Heather Rozman, Executive Director of the Hotel Association of Los Angeles. "Putting these overly burdensome restrictions on our industry will do more harm than good for the very employees they say they want to benefit."

The Los Angeles City Council on Wednesday will consider narrowing these ordinances to exempt hotels with collective bargaining agreements, disproportionately affecting small, independent and family-owned businesses. Exposing businesses to litigation amid the COVID-19 pandemic is a direct slap to an industry that has shifted from business as usual to respond the COVID-19 public health crisis, offering more than 27,000 rooms to provide temporary shelter to those in need.

"We are looking forward to the days when hotels re-open, and we will need our highly trained staff to return to their jobs," said Rozman. "This isn't just a hotel problem; this pandemic has impacted *all* jobs across Los Angeles. Any policy conversations should be focused on creative ways to support people now, rather than stipulate how businesses hire employees."

About the Hotel Association of Los Angeles

The Hotel Association of Los Angeles has advocated for the Los Angeles lodging industry for more than 70 years through legislative support, coalition building, lobbying and public advocacy. Its members represent a cross-section of the lodging industry, including owners, managers, suppliers and vendors.