

Express program will make it easier for those opening restaurants, bars.

By Staff and Wire Services

Posted: 06/03/2010 07:50:50 PM PDT

Updated: 06/03/2010 07:54:03 PM PDT

Recognizing that small businesses need help recovering from the recession, city officials on Thursday announced a streamlined permitting process that will make it easier to open a restaurant or bar in Los Angeles.

Under the Restaurant and Hospitality Express program, applicants will be able to get the necessary permits in just nine months, rather than the 12 to 16 months under the previous system.

"Restaurant and Hospitality Express is a perfect example of how public and private partnerships can work together," said city jobs czar Austin Beutner. "We took action and created a new way of thinking and working."

Carol Schatz, president of Central City Association, said work on the program began

last December when her organization brought together business owners and city and county officials.

"New restaurants and bars are significant job creators," Schatz said. "In downtown alone, they have created 17,000 new jobs and millions of dollars in sales tax revenue."

Under the program, each new establishment will be assigned a dedicated case manager to provide one-on-one assistance throughout the design, permitting and construction stages of the development.

Much of the paperwork that used to take six to eight weeks to submit and review can now be completed over-the-counter, in 24 hours or less.

"In these tough economic times, we have to find creative solutions that meet the demands of more, for less," said Councilwoman

Jan Perry, whose district includes downtown.

The R&H Express network includes the Departments of Building and Safety, Public Health, Planning, and Fire. It also includes the Bureaus of Engineering and Sanitation.

The Central City Association first proposed streamlining the permitting and inspection process last year. A pilot program drew 14 new establishments, five of which are now operating.

Advertisement

Add **NFL RedZone** to your DISH Network package for **\$7.00 /MONTH**

1-888-206-3033

ONLY AVAILABLE WITH QUALIFYING PROGRAMING PACKAGES.

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™