

Protect our Workers and Communities from Kroger and Albertsons Merger

WHEREAS, Kroger and Albertsons, two of the largest grocery companies in the United States, have indicated their intent to merge to form one company under the Kroger banner, and California has more of these two grocery chains than any other state in the country, the two companies combined have 812 stores in California, Kroger stores under the Food 4 Less / FoodsCo and Ralphs banners and Albertsons operating stores under the Albertsons, Safeway, Vons and Pavilions banners, in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas 115 of the 159 Albertsons stores are within 2 miles of a Kroger store and are potential targets for store closures; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council has an extensive record of supporting the neighborhoods' desire for quality and affordable grocery food shopping opportunities with particular concern for grocery store deserts. "The City has an interest in considering whether it should take legislative action to address these closures and potentially future closures of other grocery stores especially in areas of the City that are commonly known as Food Deserts" (as expressed in Motion 4.07.2021 ADHOC Council Committee COVID) and

WHEREAS, the past two years have underscored that grocery workers are essential as they have dutifully shown up to work during a global pandemic to ensure Angelenos can get vital necessities for themselves and their families while grocery workers struggle with economic, food and housing insecurity; Motion 4.1.2022 referred to Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee);

WHEREAS, California's grocery stores provide good quality jobs for workers, workers in the grocery sectors are predominantly women and people of color with good benefits, working conditions and pensions while lifting up our communities' standard of living, making these jobs a cornerstone of our communities, frontline grocery workers are the unsung heroes of the pandemic, they have put their health in harm's way throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to work, ensuring that communities were fed, had access to basic necessities, and resources throughout, all at great personal risk to themselves; and

WHEREAS, Mergers in the grocery industry and the resulting lack of competition and unchecked buying power have an impact on workers, customers, local farmers and ranchers and our local communities through store closures, creating food deserts in our most vulnerable communities, price increases and the loss of union jobs and the bargaining power of workers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council and the Rules Elections and Governmental Relations Committee evaluate the proposal and protect good jobs for workers, food suppliers and consumers. We ask our City Council Representatives to review the Kroger and Albertsons merger and acquisitions in the grocery industry that undermine workers' interests and put our communities at risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Committee (NANDC) will work with our elected representatives to protect workers' jobs, pensions and livelihoods and our communities' diverse shopping options when they are threatened by mergers and acquisitions in the grocery industry.

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Signature: _____

Date: _____