



Recap of United Chambers Government Affairs Meeting held on Monday April 19, 2021

Richard Fisk, Chair ~ Government Affairs

After the welcome introduction and administrative task of approving the March minutes, the first of our guest speakers began their presentation. Liza Frias, Director of Environmental Health from LA County provided the meeting with facts regarding food vendors and restaurants. The County Health Department issues permits to food trucks and food carts when they comply with the established laws and regulations. No sidewalk pop-up food vendors are permitted for they have no means to conform to the health food service codes. Liza and her colleague, Rob Ragland, noted that cities cannot provide licenses and permits to food vendors without them first obtaining a health permit. When it comes to enforcement of the health regulations, the inspectors want and need the support of local law enforcement. The only way a pop-up food vendor (that pops up with a tent on the sidewalk or street and does not have a cart attached to it) can obtain a health permit at this time is to be associated with a special event.

Restaurants were the next topic where she pointed out a few of the current regulations now that many are offering indoor dining. Diners are required to have 6 feet of separation measured from back-to-back of nearby chairs at different tables. TV monitors are not permitted indoors but can be on in the outdoor area. Live entertainment is allowed outside with a minimum specified distance of 12 feet from the audience/customers. Waiters no longer have to wear gloves and if vaccinated can avoid wearing a face shield (face masks are still required).

Our next guest speaker was Jonathan Herrera Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for the CalSavers Retirement Program. Not every business is aware of the mandated State CalSavers program. Employers with 5 or more employees that do not offer a qualified pension plan must offer CalSavers to their employees. The law became effective last year with a stepped registration deadline. Companies with 100 or more employees were required to sign up by last June, 50 or more by this June 30th, and those companies with 5 or more by June 2022. The company's responsibility is limited to withholding 5% of the wages and sending it to the Administrator of the program, no other financial responsibility is incurred. There are fees associated with the Roth IRA type program which are about 83 cents per hundred dollars that are paid by the employee. Self-employed and individuals can join the retirement savings program as well as employees that do not want to join their employers qualified pension plan. Further information about CalSavers and their 4 webinars per week can be found on their website: <https://www.calsavers.com>

Like every month at the meeting, representatives from City, County, and State offices gave reports on pending legislation and news about their districts. There is always time allotted for Q&A. **You are all welcome to attend our monthly meetings.** May's meeting will be at noon on May 17th. If you are not on our email list, contact Marian at marian@unitedchambers.org.