



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmembers Call for Nutrition Labeling Ordinance

Councilmembers Huizar and President Garcetti announced Wednesday that they intend to push for City ordinance requiring some restaurants post nutritional information

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 10, 2008) – Hoping to provide Angelenos with another tool to make healthy choices about the kind of foods they eat, Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar and Council President Eric Garcetti said today they’ll ask their fellow Councilmembers to adopt a city ordinance requiring that some restaurants display nutritional information on menus and menu boards.

“This ordinance will simply give families the same kind of nutritional information they get when they shop at a supermarket,” said Councilman Huizar, who wrote the motion which would affect chain restaurants with 15 or more outlets in the state.

“Providing nutritional information to restaurant patrons is important to their ability to make healthy choices for themselves,” said Council President Eric Garcetti.

A similar ordinance plan has been developed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and a state senate bill (SB1420) authored by State Senator Alex Padilla, is currently waiting for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s signature. The Governor has vowed not to sign any new bills into law until the state legislature agrees on a state budget, which is currently 72 days overdue.

“While we hope that the Governor signs the bill, we simply cannot afford to wait any longer,” Garcetti said.

Between 1987 and 2001, rising obesity rates and associated medical conditions accounted for more than a quarter of the growth of health care spending in the U.S.

(More)

Councilmembers Call for Nutrition Labeling Ordinance at Restaurants **Page 2**

And in Los Angeles County, adult obesity rates increased from 14.3 percent in 1997 to 20.9 percent in 2005.

The proposed City ordinance would take the guess-work out of calorie counting at some restaurants.

“With studies showing people make healthier eating choices if they know up front things like fat and calorie content, this ordinance will undoubtedly lead to safer eating choices,” Huizar said. “And while we would require that some restaurants provide basic nutritional information, customers are free to make whatever choices they want.”

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