

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zach Negin

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2024 07:07 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1074-S7

**Comments for Public Posting:** October 20, 2024 Planning and Land Use Management Dear Councilmembers, I am writing on behalf of Tabula Rasa Bar to urge your immediate support for CF 20-1074-S7, a crucial motion directing city departments to streamline the permitting process for covered outdoor dining areas. As a neighborhood bar owner in East Hollywood/Thai Town, we are in urgent need of relief from the current, overcomplicated process that continues to place undue financial and operational burdens on our business. Outdoor dining has become essential to our survival. The City of Los Angeles' Al Fresco Program, while well-intentioned, has become bogged down in red tape, preventing many small businesses like ours from fully benefiting. The high costs and restrictive regulations are pushing us toward breaking point at a time when our industry is still grappling with the economic aftermath of the pandemic. If these barriers aren't addressed immediately, we risk losing more local establishments, jobs, and vital community hubs. Our businesses are struggling now, and delays in simplifying the permitting process are not just costly—they're potentially fatal to the survival of small restaurants that have given so much to this city. Outdoor dining doesn't just help our businesses recover; it revitalizes our neighborhoods, promotes safer public spaces, and provides a healthier option for dining that our customers are demanding. We need the city to act now, streamlining this process so that we can remain viable contributors to the local economy. Please act with urgency in supporting CF 20-1074-S6 to help keep our doors open, our workers employed, and our neighborhoods thriving. Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing matter. Sincerely, Zach Negin