

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Hennessy

Date Submitted: 11/02/2023 04:54 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: am a resident of LA and absolutely love outdoor dining. It makes the city more vibrant and lively and keeps Angelinos safer from airborne illness transmission. This is a tremendous opportunity for businesses to attract covid-cautious folks as well as those who just like dining outside. More space will equal more business. I love what restaurants have done with outdoor space since the pandemic and I fully support the permanent plan for Al Fresco Dining! Pass this with no restrictions and make it as easy as possible to implement this for restaurants and bars. I just visited New York City which passed something similar and it was so great to see all the people dining outside, even in cold weather because of permanent structures that allowed for choice of dining experiences. Those concerned with the noise can be put at ease knowing that the noticeable noise in my neighborhood is negligible. Cars in the street are louder than diners. Outdoor dining and bars makes a city more lively. Look at Europe. It's inviting and communal. Outdoor dining is great for businesses and great for health. Los Angeles will be better for it.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/02/2023 10:19 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles Chapter of the California Restaurant Association supports the LA Al Fresco Ordinance. Our letter is attached.
Thank you.



November 2, 2023

Councilmember Harris-Dawson, Chair
Councilmembers Yaroslavsky, Padilla, and Hutt
Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Outdoor Dining/ L.A. AI Fresco: SUPPORT
Council file number: 20-1074-S4

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers Yaroslavsky, Padilla, and Hutt,

I write today in support of the proposed AI Fresco Ordinance.

Our Los Angeles Chapter of the California Restaurant Association (CRA) is a robust base of community restaurants spread throughout the City of Los Angeles. We appreciate very much the collaborative work to date on the LA AI Fresco Ordinance you are considering.

The CRA played a significant role in the development of the initial AI Fresco program at the outset of the pandemic and we have continued to work constructively with the Planning Commission to help create a reasonable and bureaucratically streamlined process to continue the spirit of the existing AI Fresco program.

The result is a product that will enable more restaurant employment, expand jobs of suppliers and purveyors supporting those restaurants, and increase city sales tax revenue. All this while safely serving the community and responding to the public's very high demand for these dining spaces.

Planning Commission Improvements to the initial Draft Ordinance

Specifically, the proposed Ordinance you are considering does the following:

- Addresses equity concerns by removing bureaucratic hurdles and excessive costs;
- Deletes the Conditional Use Permit requirement for alcohol service, something that otherwise would add tens of thousands of dollars and many months of delay;
- Allows for low impact private events (such as baby showers, birthdays, and memorials); and
- Maximizes guest access and community by not restricting use of private parking spaces.

Much work has gone into this Ordinance by many stakeholders and all throughout the public process at the Planning Commission an overwhelming level of support was voiced not just by the restaurant community, but by the public as well.

As you know, this proposed Ordinance also received widespread support at the previous Planning & Land Use Management Committee in June.

Removal of the Ability to have Ambient Music

While removal of the ability to provide ambient music in these dining spaces is a relatively new and disappointing development, we support the Ordinance moving forward with the understanding that the ambient music issue will continue to get considered and we look forward to constructively working towards an adequate solution. It is important to keep in mind that the restaurant community is looking to have ambient music in these dining spaces to mitigate the impacts of vehicular traffic noise and improve the guest experience.

We believe that a more robust set of options for noise complaints directed at a responsive entity will go a long way towards addressing concerns that have been raised. We look forward to continuing to work on this issue and exploring acceptable solutions that enhance the outdoor dining experience for the public while also being sensitive to our surrounding communities.

Conclusion

It is imperative that the final Ordinance be grounded by a reasonable and bureaucratically streamlined process to continue the spirit of the existing program- and we believe that is what you have before you.

Al Fresco dining has strengthened the communities within the city, expanded job opportunities, and allowed those still concerned with indoor dining to have a comfortable place to dine.

The LA Al Fresco program has been a phenomenal success by just about any measure and we strongly encourage your support of this Ordinance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Sutton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being more prominent than the last name "Sutton".

Matt Sutton
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs + Public Policy
California Restaurant Association