

MOTION PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

In December of 2023, the City Council approved the permanent Al Fresco program to ensure that our small businesses could continue benefiting from the temporary outdoor dining program established during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program was a lifeline for many small businesses across the City during the pandemic, allowing for them to keep their doors open, and building on a century-long outdoor culinary culture that Angelenos have long known and loved.

During the pandemic, there were over 3500 businesses that were given temporary Al Fresco permits, whereas only a handful have obtained their permanent permits since the applications opened on February 1st. While the Mayor's office extended the deadline for application submission to the end of this calendar year, as well as promise to provide more dedicated services to the small businesses, there is continued concern about the complicated and overwhelming application process without a real promise for their permanent Al Fresco permit.

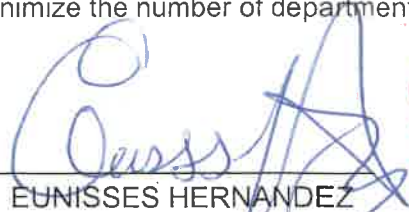
In Council District 1, there are numerous cases of small businesses being unable to complete the process, even when securing assistance from consultants that can often cost thousands of dollars. The amount of different departments involved, and the additional step to bring in the LA County Department of Public Health has proven to be a timely bureaucratic ordeal for businesses that have many other priorities to meet in order to keep their businesses afloat.

A City survey of participating restaurants showed that 90% of these restaurants consider Al Fresco dining integral to their operations. It is imperative that the City do everything in its power to ease the burden of the red tape that exists within our application processes. This will ensure that the small businesses that make up much of the cultural fabric of the City, employ hundreds of thousands of workers, and make up the backbone of our economy are not left out of the opportunity to grow and succeed.

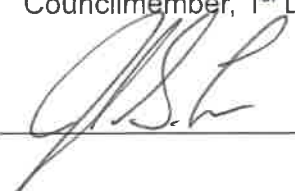
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Building and Safety, with assistance from the Department of City Planning and the Department on Disability, to report back in 30 days on the following:

- Building codes that can be amended at the City level that can assist with streamlining the approval process for commonly used outdoor structures such as outdoor patios, awnings, shade sails, and umbrellas;
- Building codes that must be amended at the State level that can assist with streamlining the approval process for commonly used outdoor structures such as outdoor patios, awnings, shade sails, and umbrellas; and,
- Internal review of the application process, the number of departments that are required for the approval process, and recommendations for streamlining to minimize the number of departmental approvals.

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



SEP 27 2024

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