

Communication from Public

Name: Michael

Date Submitted: 10/21/2024 02:34 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S7

Comments for Public Posting: October 21, 2024 Planning and Land Use Management Dear Councilmembers, I am writing on behalf of Woon Kitchen, in Historic Filipinotown, 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 family owned independent restaurant owner, 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, Michael Chen

Communication from Public

Name: Mark Houck

Date Submitted: 10/21/2024 10:13 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S7

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council members, I am writing on behalf of Open Face Food Shop 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 an independent restaurant owner in Mid City Los Angeles, we are in urgent need of relief from the current and consistently overcomplicated process that places unnecessary financial and operational burdens on us. Personally, we have been working on our Al Fresco permit (with no changes to our property) for more than 5 months and are still not approved. I can only imagine what people that need to make changes to their property have to go through; even simple changes like adding shade can derail the process and cause hardship in an already nearly impossible environment. 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 which prevents many businesses like ours from benefiting fully. High costs, delays and restrictive regulations are pushing us toward a perilous breaking point; all this while we are still wrestling with the fallout of the pandemic. We must address this immediately or risk losing more local establishments, more jobs, and our vital community hubs. Not so long ago, we were considered "Essential Workers". Now, we are wrapped up in so much red tape that it threatens to suffocate the businesses we fought so hard to keep alive. Outdoor dining doesn't just help our businesses recover; it revitalizes our neighborhoods, promotes walkable neighborhoods, safer public spaces, and provides a healthier option for dining that our customers are demanding. Please act now- fix this process so that we can continue to contribute to our communities. Please act with urgency in supporting CF 20-1074-S6.

October 17, 2024

Planning and Land Use Management

Dear Council members,

I am writing on behalf of Open Face Food Shop 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 an independent restaurant owner in Mid City Los Angeles, we are in urgent need of relief from the current and consistently overcomplicated process that places unnecessary financial and operational burdens on us. Personally, we have been working on our AI Fresco permit (with no changes to our property) for more than 5 months and are still not approved.

I can only imagine what people that *need* to make changes to their property have to go through; even simple changes like adding shade can derail the process and cause hardship in an already nearly impossible environment.

Outdoor dining has become essential to our survival. The **City of Los Angeles' AI Fresco Program**, while well-intentioned, has become bogged down in red tape which prevents many businesses like ours from benefiting fully. High costs, delays and restrictive regulations are pushing us toward a perilous breaking point; all this while we are still wrestling with the fallout of the pandemic. We must address this immediately or risk losing more local establishments, more jobs, and our vital community hubs.

Not so long ago, we were considered "Essential Workers". Now, we are wrapped up in so much red tape that it threatens to suffocate the businesses we fought so hard to keep alive.

Outdoor dining doesn't just help our businesses recover; it revitalizes our neighborhoods, promotes walkable neighborhoods, safer public spaces, and provides a healthier option for dining that our customers are demanding. Please act now- fix this process so that we can continue to contribute to our communities.

Please act with urgency in supporting CF 20-1074-S6.

With thanks,

Mark Houck

Owner

Open Face Food Shop

Food By Lene

HYA West Adams



Open Face Food Shop
5577 West Adams Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob Hobbs

Date Submitted: 10/21/2024 12:46 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S7

Comments for Public Posting: October 17, 2024 Planning and Land Use Management Dear Councilmembers, I am writing on behalf of Belles Beach House 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 restaurant owner in Venice Beach, 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, Jacob Hobbs

Communication from Public

Name: Ian Hillan

Date Submitted: 10/21/2024 02:30 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S7

Comments for Public Posting: This is an urgent issue that we desperately need to fix. The current process to permit covered outdoor dining, via the LA Al Fresco Program, has proved practically impossible. Many members of the Los Angeles restaurant community have voiced their concerns about this issue. It has prevented many of us from submitting an initial application or left us stuck in complicated and expensive structural design requirements for something we were assured would be a streamlined process. So far, the requirements asked of us have been in some cases more demanding than those I have previously encountered for a brand-new restaurant build-out! There has to be a better way. I beg you to read the attached letter and act quickly and decisively to alleviate the undue burden being placed on small neighborhood restaurants, many of which have already, or soon will have, been forced out of business.

October 21, 2024

Planning and Land Use Management

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of **Fred 62** 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 an historic neighborhood full-service diner owner in **Los Feliz**, 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' AI 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.

We were assured that the process to make the temporary AI Fresco permits permanent would be streamlined, but that has not been the case. In fact, the process seems more complicated, demanding and expensive than if we were commencing a brand-new restaurant build-out. We have been forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars on Architect's, Structural Engineer's and other fees, in addition to the substantial initial investment we made to build the outdoor space under the AI Fresco order. This has placed an undue, unexpected and unwelcome burden on us as we try desperately to recover from the pandemic and the additional strain that has been put on restaurants around the city due to the war in Ukraine, the supply chain issues and the movie industry strikes. We are fortunate to have had the funds set aside to cover these additional costs but there are hundreds of small restaurants not so fortunate and who will undoubtedly not survive the burden.

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,



Ian Hillan, General Manager, Fred 62