

Communication from Public

Name: George Francisco

Date Submitted: 10/23/2024 01:53 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S7

Comments for Public Posting: RE; SUPPORT FOR CF 20-1074-S7 October 17, 2024 Dear Councilmembers, I am writing on behalf of the Venice Chamber of Commerce 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 the advocacy organization representing dozens of restaurants and hotels in Venice, our members 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, has been a typically ill-conceived and even more poorly executed nightmare that is preventing many small businesses from fully benefiting. The high costs and restrictive regulations are pushing them toward a breaking point at a time when the hospitality 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. Oh, and let's not forget that our city will be hosting the world for the next 4 years with major events happening here. Yet we lack the necessary hotel rooms and dining options that should be mandatory for a world-class city that LA envisions itself to be. Please act with urgency in supporting CF 20-1074-S6 to help keep our restaurants' doors open, our workers employed, and our neighborhoods thriving. Sincerely, George Francisco Director of Policy & Planning Venice Chamber of Commerce



RE; SUPPORT FOR CF 20-1074-S7

October 17, 2024

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of the Venice Chamber of Commerce 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 the advocacy organization representing dozens of restaurants and hotels in Venice, our members 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, has been a typically ill-conceived and even more poorly executed nightmare** that is preventing many small businesses from fully benefiting. The high costs and restrictive regulations are pushing them toward a breaking point at a time when the hospitality 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.

Oh, and let's not forget that our city will be hosting the world for the next 4 years with major events happening here. Yet we lack the necessary hotel rooms and dining options that should be mandatory for a world-class city that LA envisions itself to be.

Please act with urgency in supporting CF 20-1074-S6 to help keep our restaurants' doors open, our workers employed, and our neighborhoods thriving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Francisco". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Francisco
Director of Policy & Planning