

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the feasibility of developing a permanent AI Fresco program that allows for a streamlined outdoor dining permit process.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Ryu – Buscaino):

1. DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), and the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, the Departments of Building and Safety and City Planning, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the City Attorney, to report relative to the feasibility of developing a permanent AI Fresco program that allows for a streamlined outdoor dining permit process, including but not limited to a potential program structure, eligibility criteria, safety and infrastructure requirements, and a plan that would enable interested businesses to opt-in to the permit program.
2. DIRECT the CLA, with the assistance of the City Attorney, Bureau of Engineering, and the LADOT, to report on any changes to State, County, and City Codes needed to effectuate this program.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For: Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

## SUMMARY

On August 25, 2020, Council considered Motion (O'Farrell – Martinez) relative to the feasibility of developing a permanent AI Fresco program that allows for a streamlined outdoor dining permit process. Motion states that in May, 2020, the Mayor announced the LA AI Fresco program. LA AI Fresco endeavors to help local food purveyors reopen safely and allow customers and employees to maintain physical distancing by temporarily relaxing the rules that regulate outdoor dining. LA AI Fresco is a program that allows restaurants, permitted sidewalk food vendors, and food trucks to use sidewalks, private parking lots, street parking spaces, lane closures, and street closures for dining.

Motion goes on to state that the LA AI Fresco Program, which has received positive feedback from restaurants, diners, and restaurant adjacent neighborhoods, looks to support the heavily impacted industry by allowing restaurants to continue to operate in a safe, physically distanced setting. Additionally, in many instances, outdoor dining has provided additional dining space for smaller, family owned restaurants, while taking advantage of Southern California's climate and preserving the unique character of neighborhoods with smaller shops and restaurants.

Motion movers believe that, after the local emergency is lifted, flexible outdoor dining settings should continue to be made available. Motion recommends that Council direct the CLA, in conjunction with other City agencies, report on the processes and steps necessary to develop a permanent AI Fresco program. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held October 19, 2020, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with representatives of LADOT and the Council District Office Four. Committee members expressed support for the program, noting its popularity with restaurant owners and consumers. It was stated that implementation has been a challenge. Councilmember Buscaino suggested that the successful outdoor dining program launched in San Pedro be used as a model to expand the program citywide. Councilmember Koretz expressed support for streamlining the application process. The Committee Chair, Councilmember Bonin suggested that the City Attorney determine what ordinances and land use entitlements such as conditional uses are needed to fully implement the program.

The Transportation Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendations, as amended to include the Fire Department among the list of City agencies to report to Council, and as further amended to add any changes of City Codes needed for permanent implementation of this program.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
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BONIN:	YES
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BUSCAINO:	YES
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KORETZ:	YES
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**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**