**File No. 20-1074**

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to establishing a permanent Al Fresco Program in the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to report in 60 days on the feasibility of revising the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) People St. Program to allow restaurants exclusive use of the public right-of-way.

2. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Engineering, working with the LADOT, to report in 60 days with recommendations to revise the Sidewalk Dining Program and the People St. Program, as appropriate, to expeditiously transition all existing L.A. Al Fresco Pilot Program participants that are operating in the public right-of-way into permanent sidewalk dining locations, including the identification of specific locations that can quickly be made permanent with minimal effort.

3. INSTRUCT the Departments of Building and Safety and City Planning, and the Los Angeles Fire Department, to report in 60 days with recommendations to develop a new category under the Restaurant and Small Business Express Program, or another appropriate regulatory framework, for outdoor dining on private property that is operating under the L.A. Al Fresco Pilot Program, including any changes to State, County, and City Codes needed to effectuate this program, including the identification of specific locations that can quickly be made permanent with minimal changes.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) or the City Administrative Officer.

Community Impact Statement: Yes
For: Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

In a report to Council dated March 11, 2021, the CLA discusses the status of the L.A. Al Fresco Program. The CLA identifies areas requiring further analysis, and refines Council instructions in order to accommodate a short- and long-term permanent outdoor dining program.

The CLA reports that the L.A. Al Fresco Program has provided an opportunity to reimagine the use of outdoor space for food service and dining. Ongoing discussions regarding how the City can emerge post-Pandemic include consideration of how to continue to support restaurant businesses through outdoor dining options. According to the CLA, the L.A. Al Fresco Pilot Program did more than streamline requirements and

approvals for outdoor dining; it virtually eliminated them. This was necessary to address the dire situation for the restaurant industry in the early days of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, many other considerations must be examined once normal activities resume. Some of the current outdoor dining locations may be completely appropriate and easily transitioned to permanent status. Others may be deemed infeasible for long-term outdoor food service.

The CLA believes there are a number of practical and technical issues that must be addressed by the respective oversight department. The report recommends that Council instruct various departments to report back on how to establish a permanent L.A. Al Fresco Program.

At its meeting held April 20, 2021, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the CLA and LADOT. The CLA representative praised the program, touting how quickly it was launched. LADOT staff stated approximately 2,800 restaurants are participating in the program. In support of the program, the City has closed street lanes and restricted curbside parking. The Department intends to assess the impact of the program on parking meter revenue. Committee members praised the program and recommended that Council approve the CLA's recommendations, as amended to set a deadline of 60 days for the requested reports.

| MEMBER | VOTE |
|---|---|
| BONIN: | YES |
| KORETZ: | YES |
| BUSCAINO: | YES |

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Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -**