

Communication from Public

Name: Westwood Village Improvement Association
Date Submitted: 10/05/2021 12:19 PM
Council File No: 20-1074
Comments for Public Posting: See attached letter.



October 5, 2021

Transportation Committee
Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chair
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Joe Buscaino

RE: CF: 20-1074 Sidewalk Dining and Al Fresco Dining

Honorable Councilmembers;

The Westwood Village Improvement Association (WVIA) is the non-profit management organization contracted by the City of Los Angeles to administer the Westwood Business Improvement District. We represent 70 unique property owners and over 2,000 businesses.

The WVIA supports efforts to increase outdoor dining in the public right of way for both sidewalk and curbside dining. These additions are long overdue in a city with such favorable climate. They also add to the vibrancy of our commercial districts by creating a synergy between brick-and-mortar businesses and pedestrian space.

Furthermore, expanded outdoor dining makes economic sense. Our local restaurants are both revenue and job creators in our city. The tax revenue created from expanded dining areas is significant and far outweighs the revenue created by a parking meter.

The LADOT Al Fresco Dining Program has been a bright spot in an otherwise extremely challenging time for our local businesses. The ease of the Al Fresco Dining application process should be a model for future permitting. The WVIA encourages the Committee and Council to build on this success and create an application process that is predictable, inexpensive, and timely.

Thank you for considering this important endeavor for our business communities.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thomas
Executive Director, WVIA