

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Eddie Navarrette  
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**Council File No:** 20-1074  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached letter of support and comments.



*Via Email*

January 25, 2022

**Public Works Committee**

*Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld, Chair*

*Councilmember John S. Lee*

*Councilmember Kevin De Leon*

*Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell*

*Councilmember Paul Koretz*

**Re: Permanency of Al Fresco, LADCP and LADBS Report Back ([CF:20-1074](#))**

Dear Public Works Committee Chair Bob Blumenfeld and Committee Members:

The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) represents over 1,200 members comprised of local food service operators and employees within the Los Angeles area. We were created to provide a voice and representation for our workforce and essential businesses engrained in the local economy of Los Angeles.

We are writing to provide comment and continued support on Item 1 ([CF: 20-1074](#)) listed on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda, hearing a joint report back to CF-1074 by LADCP and LADBS, with recommendations to move forward a permanent Al Fresco Program.

The report accurately identifies just how lucrative and complex permitting for a restaurant patio has become. It also allows a glimpse of how impractical our current permit structure has become. Our hope is work under these supported LADCP/LADBS recommendations may lead to further revaluation of our permit systems creating a more sustainable city staff work environment. It is possible to do more with less.

Al Fresco Dining has granted us the opportunity to reevaluate our regulation of outdoor spaces impacting our neighborhoods. It has become the ultimate pilot program for restaurants in Los Angeles. A great city with one of the best climates for outdoor dining. It has shown how we can build local ecosystems by removing parking in our communities and activating our streets by supporting small business.

The challenges outlined in the report reveal a considerable amount of time to complete a successful Al Fresco Ordinance. Let the timeline of the Emergency Ordinance (LEO) approximately 18 months be an example. We request City Planning to take action in first steps towards a permanent Al Fresco by immediately updating a few core policies that will help in the efforts and transition of a permanent Al Fresco:

- We recommend, amending LEO, C.F. 20-0380-S1 to allow the removal or parking requirements for patios permanently that do not impact existing parking stalls. Currently,

LEO only allows for patios to be exempt from parking through temporary AI Fresco permits.

- We recommend, per [20-0499](#) EWDD recommendation # 5 (c) revision to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 12.03 of the zoning code to eliminate the limitation on outside dining area floor area and location.
- We recommend, an urgency clause be applied once the ordinance starts the legislative process.

To conclude, we understand a permanent AI Fresco program will be a challenge; that compromise will have to be made on both the public and private sectors. We honor the staff selected in making this extremely small business beneficial new ordinance a reality. We recommend that city staff selected have some vision to see a permanent AI Fresco ordinance a success rather than another task.

Thank you for hearing our voice. We look forward to building a more sustainable hospitality community together. We truly appreciate your efforts to ensure we can continue to safely serve Los Angeles residents. We hope you will continue to recognize that and support the thousands of restaurants struggling to make it through this pandemic.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at Eddie Navarrette 213 545 2620.

Thank you,



Eddie Navarrette  
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**About IHC**

*The Independent Hospitality Coalition (IHC) is a coalition of California hospitality workers whose purpose is to provide representation for our growing workforce and essential businesses, creating awareness of our role in the economic fabric of society. Our mission is to have a seat at the table to help shape policy and legitimize our crucial impact on communities and cities throughout California. More information can be found here: <https://www.independenthospitality.org/>*