

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

Recommendations for Council action:

1. INSTRUCT the Department of City Planning (DCP), Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Bureau of Engineering (BOE), and other applicable Departments, to develop a set of proposed regulations and processes, which are consistent and complementary, for a permanent *Al Fresco* and outdoor dining program.
2. INSTRUCT the DCP, in coordination with the LADBS, Los Angeles Fire Department, and City Attorney, to prepare and present a Citywide ordinance creating a permanent *Al Fresco* program and generally streamlining outdoor dining provisions throughout the Zoning Code.
3. INSTRUCT the DCP and LADBS to report within 90 days with a status report regarding the development of outdoor dining provisions, including consideration of the following:
  - a. Strategies for managing public parking in high-demand areas.
  - b. Strategies for the promotion of transit and other modes of transportation to reduce parking demand.
  - c. Noise issues, including whether different rules should apply depending on whether the outdoor dining is on a side of structure facing residential uses.
  - d. Alcohol service.
  - e. Strategies for streamlining the approval process, such as the Restaurant Beverage Program or creating standard plans or a pre-approved kit of parts for outdoor dining areas.
  - f. Enforcement of requirements and conditions, including cooperation among the LADBS, BOE, the Bureau of Street Services and the Los Angeles Police Department, and including ability to conduct inspections and enforcement during evening and weekend hours.
4. INSTRUCT the DCP to:
  - a. Pursue a programmatic coastal development permit for the new regulations within the Coastal Zone.

- b. Undertake an outreach process, including current temporary Al Fresco participants, community stakeholders, and industry representatives, in the preparation of the permanent Al Fresco and outdoor dining Ordinance.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the DCP/LADBS. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:  
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council  
Mid-City West Neighborhood Council  
Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council

**(Also referred to the Public Works Committee)**

Summary:

On February 1, 2022, your Committee considered a December 22, 2021 joint DCP/LADBS report relative to establishing a permanent *Al Fresco* dining program in the City of Los Angeles. According to the DCP/LADBS, the City's Al Fresco program was launched in late May 2020 as an Emergency Directive issued by the Mayor. This temporary program created a streamlined process to provide expanded outdoor dining options for food establishments citywide. It was launched to provide a lifeline for these establishments, which had at that point been subject to a strict indoor dining ban because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The program has remained popular since its introduction and has provided a viable alternative for these business owners as the trajectory of the pandemic has repeatedly waxed and waned. Currently the program has roughly 2,500 participants, of which the majority are utilizing some portion of private property while the remainder are utilizing space in the public right of way. Many participants are utilizing combinations of both public and private space. A permanent program, though a complex undertaking that requires careful analysis and thoughtful design, will aid in the City's recovery from the pandemic and its economic impacts while allowing for unique placemaking opportunities throughout the City. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to make a series of recommendations, as detailed above. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Transportation Committee



**COUNCILMEMBER VOTE**

BONIN: YES

KORETZ: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

ARL

2/1/22

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**