

PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTIC
TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

As our City begins the slow process of reopening our economy, it is necessary to explore innovative and creative policies to ensure that our local businesses can operate at full capacity, while maintaining safe practices to protect workers' and customers' health.

Many cities across the State have already begun experimenting with the closure of streets to provide residents with more space as health experts and officials urge for the continued practice of social distancing. The cities of San Jose and Berkeley are also exploring how streets, sidewalks, park space, and parking lots can be converted into dining areas to allow restaurants to resume serving diners, while maintaining social distancing.

The City should implement a similar program to allow restaurants to safely serve customers without having to scale back on operations. Most restaurants' existing dining areas were not designed in a way that ensures customers can maintain at least six feet in distance from each other. Without the ability to expand dining areas, many restaurants won't be able to serve the same number of customers as they did before the coronavirus outbreak once it is safe for restaurants to resume dine-in service. Given that the economic impacts of the shutdown have been felt across every industry in the City with restaurants particularly devastated by these necessary safety measures, the City should do everything within its power to assist restaurants as they begin to reopen.

This City should develop a program to allow for quick deployment of the public right-of-way for use by restaurants for as long as social distancing is necessary, while also maintaining the accessibility of our sidewalk system to all residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, the Bureau of Street Services, and the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of any other necessary departments, be instructed to report on the feasibility of allowing restaurants to use the public right-of-way, including sidewalk, alley, and street space, to ensure that customers can safely practice social distancing during the current public health crisis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be instructed to coordinate with any necessary departments or agencies to develop standard operating guidelines that determine the number of diners who can safely be accommodated for outdoor dining.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be instructed to report on the eligibility of City costs for this program for reimbursement by the federal or State government.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

MIKE BONIN (verbal)
Councilmember, 15th District

MAY 19 2020

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