

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

The outbreak of COVID-19 has highly impacted the way that the residents of Los Angeles live their daily lives. The pandemic has hit the hospitality and restaurant industry particularly hard, accounting for nearly 60% of the job losses in the region. These extended closures will have a long-lasting impact not only on small businesses, but on the City's budget revenues as well.

As the City and County of Los Angeles continue to modify the stay at home order and prepare for the eventual reopening of restaurants, we should look to the California Department of Public Health guidelines that have prioritized outdoor seating in order to maximize health and safety. In addition, the California Alcoholic and Beverage Control (ABCs) new Temporary Catering Authorization (TCA) will allow restaurants and bars to create outdoor areas to consume food and alcohol, providing a way for restaurants to recover lost revenue since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

As we have seen from Vilnius, Lithuania to the Bay Area, cities are reimagining their public spaces for outdoor seating and services to allow for sufficient social distancing for the safety of employees and the public. It is in the interest of the City to create a mechanism that allows for establishments to resume operations safely.

The Downtown San Pedro business community has specifically requested the ability to utilize public streets and adjacent sidewalks for outdoor dining and pedestrian-only access. "Summer in the Streets" would be the first pilot program to begin operations as soon as state and local orders allow for restaurant dine-in service, and would follow all proposed safety protocols.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be REQUESTED to prepare and present an ordinance that creates an expedited and low-cost permit process, during the COVID-19 Local Emergency, for businesses and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to apply for temporary use of sidewalks, streets, public spaces, and adjacent parcels for outdoor dining, exercise classes, and other outdoor business operations that will enable compliance with public health guidelines for physical distancing.

PRESENTED BY: _____

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SECONDED BY: _____

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District