

Communication from Public

Name: Loren Khulusi

Date Submitted: 12/03/2023 04:26 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: I appreciate your hard work in developing the proposed LA alfresco dining program changes. However, I want to share my thoughts on a specific regulation that is causing me some concern. It's about the recent addition of the requirement for all restaurants to provide one on-site parking stall. While I fully understand the importance of parking in our city, this regulation could create an undue hardship for small businesses relying heavily on their outdoor dining spaces during the pandemic. I suggest we work together to find a solution that supports our city's businesses, big and small. We could explore alternative parking solutions that don't involve sacrificing valuable outdoor dining spaces. With your expertise and dedication, I'm confident that we can develop a plan that benefits everyone.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Brenzel

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 09:02 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: This would greatly harm some of my favorite small business's ability to thrive - please reconsider an approach that suits more businesses

Communication from Public

Name: Hunter

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 10:45 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Agenda Item # 15 - Support for 20-1074-S4 Revised Al Fresco Ordinance, Opposition To Newly Added LADCP Recommendation # 2 Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members, I am writing to express our continued support of PLUM Agenda Item 15 CF 20-1074-S4, specifically for the recommended alternative City of LA AL Fresco Ordinance labeled: Exhibit A to City Planning's 11/2/2023 Supplemental Report as written. We are in opposition to Recommendation #2 in the Department of City Planning's letter dated November 27th, 2023. The alternative ordinance listed as 'Exhibit A' was crafted in collaboration and compromise with the community it is built for. It does not completely reflect the realities of what customers expect from a dining experience, yet we needed to find a way to work with city partners on what is fair and equitable for all Angeleno restaurants. The addition of at least one parking space is NOT equitable. By requiring just one parking stall, we will be burdened with a much longer, more complicated, and more expensive permanent permit process. Further, you cut off the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. Many buildings exist today without parking requirements. State bills such as AB 2097, currently in effect, reflect the direction we must go to cut down carbon emissions to save our planet. If we must put the parking burden on anyone, it shouldn't be on the fragile shoulders of the small business community. Thank you for hearing the voice of the Independent Hospitality Community. We are dedicated to serving our community by working with government agencies on reasonable progress. The food service business community suffered more job losses than any other business type, changing how we must forge ahead to survive. Making processes like these easier to navigate will give us confidence that our elected officials are listening and serving us, so we may ALL be the best active citizens in our city. Thank you, Hunter

Communication from Public

Name: Main Street BID

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 10:46 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Agenda Item # 15 - Support for 20-1074-S4 Revised AL Fresco Ordinance, Opposition To Newly Added LADCP Recommendation # 2 Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members, We are in opposition to Recommendation #2 in the Department of City Planning's letter dated November 27th, 2023. MSBIA is writing to express our continued support of PLUM Agenda Item 15 CF 20-1074-S4, specifically for the recommended alternative City of LA AL Fresco Ordinance labeled: Exhibit A to City Planning's 11/2/2023 Supplemental Report as written. The alternative ordinance listed as 'Exhibit A' was crafted in collaboration and compromise with the community it is built for. It does not completely reflect the realities of what customers expect from a dining experience, yet we needed to find a way to work with city partners on what is fair and equitable for all Angeleno restaurants. The addition of at least one parking space is NOT equitable. By requiring just one parking stall, we will be burdened with a much longer, more complicated, and more expensive permanent permit process. Further, you cut off the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. Many buildings exist today without parking requirements. State bills such as AB 2097, currently in effect, reflect the direction we must go to cut down carbon emissions to save our planet. If we must put the parking burden on anyone, it shouldn't be on the fragile shoulders of the small business community. Thank you for hearing the voice of the Independent Hospitality Community. We are dedicated to serving our community by working with government agencies on reasonable progress. The food service business community suffered more job losses than any other business type, changing how we must forge ahead to survive. Making processes like these easier to navigate will give us confidence that our elected officials are listening and serving us, so we may ALL be the best active citizens in our city. Thank you, MSBIA Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: Caitlin Whelan

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 11:46 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: We STRONGLY urge the city of Los Angeles to allow al fresco dining for restaurants, without any requirement for parking spaces. In the interest of making Los Angeles a more pedestrian, outdoor-friendly and bike-friendly city, we think parking is LESS of a priority than the freedom for restaurants to offer outdoor dining.

Communication from Public

Name: Cameron Chase

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 11:47 AM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: We STRONGLY urge the city of Los Angeles to allow al fresco dining for restaurants, without any requirement for parking spaces. In the interest of making Los Angeles a more pedestrian, outdoor-friendly and bike-friendly city, we think parking is LESS of a priority than the freedom for restaurants to offer outdoor dining.

Communication from Public

Name: PL Dallaire

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 02:43 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: LACouncilComment.com - CF 20-1074-S4 Planning And Land Use Management Committee Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair Councilmember John S. Lee, Vice Chair Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky Councilmember Imelda Padilla Councilmember Heather Hutt Re: Agenda Item # 15 - Support for 20-1074-S4 Revised Al Fresco Ordinance, Opposition To Newly Added LADCP Recommendation # 2 Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members, PL Dallaire is writing to express our continued support of PLUM Agenda Item 15 CF 20-1074-S4, specifically for the recommended alternative City of LA AL Fresco Ordinance labeled: Exhibit A to City Planning's 11/2/2023 Supplemental Report as written. We are in opposition to Recommendation #2 in the Department of City Planning's letter dated November 27th, 2023. The alternative ordinance listed as 'Exhibit A' was crafted in collaboration and compromise with the community it is built for. It does not completely reflect the realities of what customers expect from a dining experience, yet we needed to find a way to work with city partners on what is fair and equitable for all Angeleno restaurants. The addition of at least one parking space is NOT equitable. By requiring just one parking stall, we will be burdened with a much longer, more complicated, and more expensive permanent permit process. Further, you cut off the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. Many buildings exist today without parking requirements. State bills such as AB 2097, currently in effect, reflect the direction we must go to cut down carbon emissions to save our planet. If we must put the parking burden on anyone, it shouldn't be on the fragile shoulders of the small business community. Thank you for hearing the voice of the Independent Hospitality Community. We are dedicated to serving our community by working with government agencies on reasonable progress. The food service business community suffered more job losses than any other business type, changing how we must forge ahead to survive. Making processes like these easier to navigate will give us confidence that our elected officials are listening and serving us, so we may ALL be the best active citizens in our city. Thank you, PL Dallaire Botanica Restaurant Director of Operations

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 01:13 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Letter Attached



December 4, 2023

Councilmember Harris-Dawson, Chair
Councilmembers Lee, Yaroslavsky, Padilla, and Hutt
Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Agenda Item # 15 -Outdoor Dining/ L.A. Al Fresco- CF: 20-1074-S4

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers Lee, Yaroslavsky, Padilla, and Hutt,

On behalf of the California Restaurant Association (CRA), the largest restaurant organization in the city of Los Angeles, we write to you today to express urgency and support for the proposed **Alternative Al Fresco Ordinance**.

Our Los Angeles Chapter of the California Restaurant Association (CRA) is a robust base of community restaurants spread throughout the City of Los Angeles. We appreciate very much the collaborative work to date on the LA Al Fresco Ordinance you are considering.

The new recommendation requiring at least one parking space is extremely concerning. Such a requirement will create an additional burdensome process for our small and minority owned restaurants and will further cut down the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. The addition of outdoor seating is what allowed many restaurants to mitigate pandemic-era losses. This requirement would force restaurants to remove their existing outdoor seating and reduce the number of patrons they serve resulting in economic losses. We ask that you do not adopt this recommendation.

While the removal of the ability to provide ambient music in these dining spaces by-right continues to be disappointing, we support the Alternative Ordinance moving forward with the understanding that the ambient music issue will continue to get considered and we look forward to constructively working towards an adequate and streamlined solution. It is important to keep in mind that the restaurant community is looking to have ambient music in these dining spaces to mitigate the impacts of vehicular traffic noise and improve the guest experience.

Al Fresco dining has strengthened the communities within the city, expanded job opportunities, and allowed those still concerned with indoor dining to have a comfortable place to dine. We strongly encourage your support of the Alternative Ordinance and that you oppose the parking requirement recommendation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Romero".

Jackie Romero
Director of Local Government Affairs
California Restaurant Association

Communication from Public

Name: Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 06:15 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers, The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) submits this letter to express our firm support for the proposed Alternative Al Fresco Ordinance. Al Fresco dining has become an integral part of our city, contributing to vibrant communities, job opportunities, and offering a comfortable alternative for those cautious about indoor dining. While we acknowledge its positive impact on the restaurant community, we wish to bring forth some concerns for your thoughtful consideration. The requirement for at least one parking space is particularly worrisome, as we fear it could burden small and minority-owned restaurants. This mandate might create an additional, cumbersome process for these establishments, limiting patio space and impeding their recovery from pandemic-related losses. We strongly urge against adopting this recommendation to prevent adverse effects on the economic viability of these businesses. Regarding the removal of ambient music by-right in outdoor dining spaces, although disappointing, we support the Alternative Ordinance. We anticipate that the ambient music issue will be addressed in the future and eagerly look forward to participating in discussions to find a satisfactory and streamlined solution that considers both community and restaurant industry needs. VICA also shares concerns about potential obstructions to pedestrian paths caused by sidewalk dining. We seek clarification on how the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) will determine the proximity of outdoor dining areas to residential spaces. Addressing these concerns is vital to ensure that the Al Fresco Program aligns seamlessly with the diverse needs and dynamics of our city. The Valley Industry & Commerce Association reaffirms its overall support for a permanent Al Fresco Program. We believe that addressing the concerns mentioned above will contribute to the success and sustainability of outdoor dining in Los Angeles. We look forward to ongoing collaborations to create a balanced and effective Al Fresco Ordinance.



December 4th, 2023

Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

RE: Agenda Item #15 – Outdoor Dining/L.A. AI Fresco; 20-1074-S4 – SUPPORT with considerations

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers,

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) submits this letter to express our firm support for the proposed Alternative AI Fresco Ordinance. AI Fresco dining has become an integral part of our city, contributing to vibrant communities, job opportunities, and offering a comfortable alternative for those cautious about indoor dining. While we acknowledge its positive impact on the restaurant community, we wish to bring forth some concerns for your thoughtful consideration.

The requirement for at least one parking space is particularly worrisome, as we fear it could burden small and minority-owned restaurants. This mandate might create an additional, cumbersome process for these establishments, limiting patio space and impeding their recovery from pandemic-related losses. We strongly urge against adopting this recommendation to prevent adverse effects on the economic viability of these businesses.

Regarding the removal of ambient music by-right in outdoor dining spaces, although disappointing, we support the Alternative Ordinance. We anticipate that the ambient music issue will be addressed in the future and eagerly look forward to participating in discussions to find a satisfactory and streamlined solution that considers both community and restaurant industry needs.

VICA also shares concerns about potential obstructions to pedestrian paths caused by sidewalk dining. We seek clarification on how the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) will determine the proximity of outdoor dining areas to residential spaces. Addressing these concerns is vital to ensure that the AI Fresco Program aligns seamlessly with the diverse needs and dynamics of our city.

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association reaffirms its overall support for a permanent AI Fresco Program. We believe that addressing the concerns mentioned above will contribute to the success and sustainability of outdoor dining in Los Angeles. We look forward to ongoing collaborations to create a balanced and effective AI Fresco Ordinance.

Victor Berrellez
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

Communication from Public

Name: Citizens Preserving Venice

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 07:40 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Citizens Preserving Venice (CPV) has reviewed the November 27, 2023 report back from the Planning Director pursuant to PLUM instruction regarding the Al Fresco Ordinance for Private Property, and has the following comments: We are grateful that you made it very clear that this ordinance does not change the need for a CDP in compliance with the Coastal Act if seeking to expand service floor area, and thus the Coastal Zone areas of the City are exempted from the proposed ordinance. We also very much appreciate the fact that the prohibition on background/ambient music for outdoor dining was maintained. However, we remain concerned about enforcement. As you noted in your report, there has been significant concern related to excessive noise from Al Fresco operators during the pandemic, much of it related to noise from playing music, in spite of the fact that it is not permitted in an outdoor dining area with a temporary Al Fresco authorization. Currently, LAPD does not enforce noise regulations, including unpermitted music in temporary Al Fresco outdoor dining areas. Outdoor dining rules against amplified music are routinely violated--as many have reported, even with the current prohibitions, many restaurants use outdoor speakers and amplified music, with impunity. That needs to change. In addition, given you intend to allow background music in an outdoor dining area through a discretionary conditional use permit, there will need to be enforcement. Thus, we remain very concerned that this ordinance lacks an effective enforcement strategy. The resources must be provided for enforcement of this program to ensure its success and protect residential areas from adverse impacts. We strongly suggest that you take the time now to assure the ordinance has adequate enforcement provisions, with consequences, so that ordinance is fair and outdoor dining does not cause adverse effects to the public health, safety, and welfare of neighbors and surrounding communities. We look forward to working with City Planning and the Coastal Commission Staff on the goal of preventing adverse effects on Coastal Access, a Coastal Resource to be protected under the Coastal Act.



December 4, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Members of the Planning Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

OPPOSE: Al Fresco Dining Ordinance
CPC-2022-8179-CA, CEQA: ENV-2022-8180-CE,
Council File Nos. 20-1074-S4 and 20-1074-S5

Dear Members of the PLUM Committee,

Citizens Preserving Venice (CPV) has reviewed the November 27, 2023 report back from the Planning Director pursuant to PLUM instruction regarding the Al Fresco Ordinance for Private Property, and has the following comments:

We are grateful that you made it very clear that this ordinance does not change the need for a CDP in compliance with the Coastal Act if seeking to expand service floor area, and thus the Coastal Zone areas of the City are exempted from the proposed ordinance.

We also very much appreciate the fact that the prohibition on background/ambient music for outdoor dining was maintained.

However, we remain concerned about enforcement. As you noted in your report, there has been significant concern related to excessive noise from Al Fresco operators during the pandemic, much of it related to noise from playing music, in spite of the fact that it is not permitted in an outdoor dining area with a temporary Al Fresco authorization.

Currently, LAPD does not enforce noise regulations, including unpermitted music in temporary Al Fresco outdoor dining areas. Outdoor dining rules against amplified music are routinely violated--as many have reported, even with the current prohibitions, many restaurants use outdoor speakers and amplified music, with impunity. That needs to change. In addition, given you intend to allow background music in an outdoor dining area through a discretionary conditional use permit, there will need to be enforcement.

Thus, we remain very concerned that this ordinance lacks an effective enforcement strategy. The resources must be provided for enforcement of this program to ensure its success and protect residential areas from adverse impacts.

We strongly suggest that you take the time now to assure the ordinance has adequate enforcement provisions, with consequences, so that ordinance is fair and outdoor dining does not cause adverse effects to the public health, safety, and welfare of neighbors and surrounding communities.

We look forward to working with City Planning and the Coastal Commission Staff on the goal of preventing adverse effects on Coastal Access, a Coastal Resource to be protected under the Coastal Act.

Yours truly,

Robin Rudisill

On Behalf of Citizens Preserving Venice

CC:

Karen Bass, Mayor

Kevin Keller, Senior Advisor, Office of Los Angeles Mayor

Krista Kline, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of Los Angeles Mayor

Hydee Feldstein-Soto, City Attorney

Kevin James, Special Assistant City Attorney

Traci Park, CD-11 Councilmember

Jeff Khau, CD-11 Planning Deputy

Steve Hudson, Coastal Commission District Director

Shannon Vaughn, Coastal Commission Program Manager

Dani Ziff, Coastal Commission District Supervisor

Vince Bertoni, Director of Planning

Hagu Solomon-Cary, Senior City Planner

Bonnie Kim, City Planner

Brian Averill, Venice Neighborhood Council President

Citizens Preserving Venice is a 501(c)3 organization with the goals of preserving the character and scale of Venice as a Special Coastal Community, including its history and its social, cultural, racial and economic diversity, and of stabilizing affordable housing in Venice.

Communication from Public

Name: Noah Holton-Raphael

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 04:16 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Planning And Land Use Management Committee Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair Councilmember John S. Lee, Vice Chair Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky Councilmember Imelda Padilla Councilmember Heather Hutt Re: Agenda Item # 15 - Support for 20-1074-S4 Revised Al Fresco Ordinance, Opposition To Newly Added LADCP Recommendation # 2 Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members, Ggiata is writing to express our continued support of PLUM Agenda Item 15 CF 20-1074-S4, specifically for the recommended alternative City of LA AL Fresco Ordinance labeled: Exhibit A to City Planning's 11/2/2023 Supplemental Report as written. We are in opposition to Recommendation #2 in the Department of City Planning's letter dated November 27th, 2023. The alternative ordinance listed as 'Exhibit A' was crafted in collaboration and compromise with the community it is built for. It does not completely reflect the realities of what customers expect from a dining experience, yet we needed to find a way to work with city partners on what is fair and equitable for all Angeleno restaurants. The addition of at least one parking space is NOT equitable. By requiring just one parking stall, we will be burdened with a much longer, more complicated, and more expensive permanent permit process. Further, you cut off the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. Many buildings exist today without parking requirements. State bills such as AB 2097, currently in effect, reflect the direction we must go to cut down carbon emissions to save our planet. If we must put the parking burden on anyone, it shouldn't be on the fragile shoulders of the small business community. Thank you for hearing the voice of the Independent Hospitality Community. We are dedicated to serving our community by working with government agencies on reasonable progress. The food service business community suffered more job losses than any other business type, changing how we must forge ahead to survive. Making processes like these easier to navigate will give us confidence that our elected officials are listening and serving us, so we may ALL be the best active citizens in our city. Thank you, Noah Holton-Raphael (Owner)

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Turner

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 08:12 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: I firmly oppose any permissions or pathways contemplated within the Al Fresco Ordinance for background, ambient, or amplified music. Over these last several months, the draft ordinance has changed several times, leaving the public whiplashed and confused. First, music was prohibited in Outdoor Dining Spaces in the original draft ordinance, then added in a subsequent draft, then ostensibly removed again in the last recommendation. Even in the latest recommendation document, it is unclear whether the alternate draft allows background and ambient music, or permits operators to seek a "discretionary CUP" that would allow them to play amplified music in Outdoor Dining Spaces. Quite simply, the public does not know what PLUM is voting on. The public deserves an explanation as to what exactly these draft ordinances contain as it relates to music in Outdoor Dining Spaces. Furthermore, the public deserves time to comment. Notice that an in-person meeting will be scheduled and a vote cast within mere days is insufficient and unfair to the public, especially when it concerns an issue with the potential to negatively harm the public. Furthermore, background, ambient, and amplified classifications are distinctions without a difference. Volumes are subjective and the way sound carries is unpredictable. Though the operator may claim the music is only "ambient," it may nonetheless carry in a way that penetrates homes of nearby residents. Already, operators routinely violate prohibitions on background, ambient, and amplified music, both under the temporary Al Fresco Ordinance and their existing CUPs and CUBs. The enforcement mechanisms for such violations are already too burdensome for all appropriate administrative entities. It is folly to believe that this enforcement will improve, especially in the foreseeable future, and not before causing distress to residents affected by harassing noise. Expressly granting operators to play any music whatsoever is a recipe for mayhem that will adversely impact residents across Los Angeles seeking the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. Should operators desire to play music in Outdoor Dining Spaces, they may seek to amend their existing CUPs following existing methods. It is unclear whether the proposed "discretionary CUP" differs from a traditional CUP. I am concerned that "discretionary CUP" is a ruse that gives the City Council political cover, but still appeases a powerful restaurant lobby by providing it with a loophole for

circumventing reasonable prohibitions. If that is the case, I urge this body to consider that the public largely lacks awareness of such tactics and is therefore incapable of protesting against them until it is too late. It is therefore the responsibility of this body to refrain from creating procedural loopholes within the Al Fresco Ordinance that would carve out any unreasonable permissions. It is grossly unfair to the public and all residents within any proximity to operators. As anyone in government knows, once a benefit is granted under an ordinance like this, it is virtually impossible to take away. For this reason, you must proceed with caution and carefully consider the comments above. Granting operators permission to play any music Outdoor Dining Spaces -- whether in private spaces or on public right of ways - is a recipe for disaster. I recognize that the restaurant lobby is organized and powerful, but please understand that the public at large relies on elected leadership and staff to protect the public's quiet enjoyment of our homes.

Communication from Public

Name: Betsy Goodman

Date Submitted: 12/04/2023 09:14 PM

Council File No: 20-1074-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Planning And Land Use Management Committee Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair Councilmember John S. Lee, Vice Chair Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky Councilmember Imelda Padilla Councilmember Heather Hutt Re: Agenda Item # 15 - Support for 20-1074-S4 Revised Al Fresco Ordinance, Opposition To Newly Added LADCP Recommendation # 2 Dear Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Committee Members, Betsy Goodman, a citizen supporting local businesses, is writing to express my continued support of PLUM Agenda Item 15 CF 20-1074-S4, specifically for the recommended alternative City of LA AL Fresco Ordinance labeled: Exhibit A to City Planning's 11/2/2023 Supplemental Report as written. We are in opposition to Recommendation #2 in the Department of City Planning's letter dated November 27th, 2023. The alternative ordinance listed as 'Exhibit A' was crafted in collaboration and compromise with the community it is built for. It does not completely reflect the realities of what customers expect from a dining experience, yet we needed to find a way to work with city partners on what is fair and equitable for all Angeleno restaurants. The addition of at least one parking space is NOT equitable. By requiring just one parking stall, we will be burdened with a much longer, more complicated, and more expensive permanent permit process. Further, you cut off the availability of patio space for restaurants on smaller lots. Many buildings exist today without parking requirements. State bills such as AB 2097, currently in effect, reflect the direction we must go to cut down carbon emissions to save our planet. If we must put the parking burden on anyone, it shouldn't be on the fragile shoulders of the small business community. Sincerely, Betsy Goodman