

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEES REPORT relative to addressing the lack of enrollment in the permanent L.A. AI Fresco program.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. DIRECT the BOE to continue with the new service category for AI Fresco on the Virtual Counter system and other service platforms to expeditiously assist businesses and perform a bi-monthly email outreach until the new deadline on July 1, 2026, to businesses that have not transitioned their temporary Sidewalk Dining authorization to the permanent L.A. AI Fresco program.
2. DIRECT the DBS to continue to enhance and improve the AI Fresco ePlanLA module to achieve maximum efficiency, leading to a higher level of enrollment, and to continue to promote the Restaurant and Small Business Express Program.
3. AUTHORIZE the EWDD to utilize funds allocated to the Jobs and Economic Development Incentives (JEDI) Program permit fee reduction incentive, currently held by DBS and Department of City Planning (DCP), to subsidize AI Fresco-related BOE, DOT, and BOS permit fees for businesses located in approved JEDI Zones.
4. AUTHORIZE the Controller to transfer \$200,000 from the DBS Building Permit Enterprise Fund No. 48R/08, Balance Sheet Account No. 2222, in the following amounts to the following departments and accounts:
  - a. \$80,000 to the BOE Special Services Fund No. 682/50, Account No. TBD, entitled "JEDI Program AI Fresco Permit Reduction Incentive."
  - b. \$8,000 to the DOT Trust Fund No. 840/94, Account No. TBD, entitled "JEDI Program AI Fresco Permit Reduction Incentive."
  - c. \$112,000 to the BOS Fund No. 208/50, Departmental Revenue Source Code No. 518801, Miscellaneous Revenue-Others.
5. DIRECT the EWDD, BOE, DOT, and BOS to establish policies and procedures for eligibility for the JEDI Program permit fee reduction incentive for AI Fresco businesses located in approved JEDI Zones.
6. INSTRUCT the BOE, with assistance from the DOT, DBS, DCP, EWDD, and BOS, to report with recommendations to potentially consolidate AI Fresco program components and functions, such as inspections, clearances, and compliance responsibilities across fewer departments and bureaus, and explore the feasibility of creating a task force to streamline internal City processes.
7. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Fire Department, and any other relevant departments, to report on the fire and safety requirements necessary for outdoor dining structures to be eligible under the City's AI Fresco Program. The report should assess existing outdoor dining structures established during the COVID-19 emergency that did not obtain formal AI Fresco permits, and identify: the key compliance gaps preventing these establishments from meeting current standards; the fire safety risks associated with non-compliant structures; feasible pathways, including potential modifications, phased compliance options, or alternative safety standards, that would enable these businesses to come into compliance without undue financial or operational burden.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the BOE, BOS, DOT, DBS, and EWDD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:  
Venice Neighborhood Council

For if Amended:  
Venice Neighborhood Council

Against:  
Venice Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

At the meeting held on April 21, 2026, your Economic Development and Jobs Committee considered a joint report from Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Building and Safety (DBS), and Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) relative to addressing the lack of enrollment in the permanent L.A. Al Fresco program.

After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations, as amended, as stated above. This matter is now submitted to the Council for consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE REPORT

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
PRICE	YES
SOTO-MARTÍNEZ	YES
JURADO	YES
NAZARIAN	YES
PARK	YES

JL 4.21.2026 20-1074-S6

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**