

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 02/23/2023 11:40 AM

Council File No: 20-1074

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing in support of an ordinance for outdoor dining. While I support al fresco restaurant spaces, I also support rules that protect nearby residents against the rare restaurant/bar that abuses the public outdoor spaces where they operate. Here are three examples: 1) some restaurants use those spaces for amplified music and entertainment -- whether or not the rules permit them to do so. 2) when alcohol is served outside, patrons may become cantankerous and pose a nuisance to neighbors. 3) street patio structures frequently accumulate dirt and debris that is challenging to keep clean. Unfortunately, the city lacks enforcement mechanisms to curtail business that abuse outdoor spaces as described above. LADIBS rarely responds to complains and LAPD has better things to do than tell noisy businesses to turn down music. Even if the business' CUP/CUX/CUB expressly prohibits amplified music or loud patrons, the path for relief for affected neighbors is long arduous. For example, the process for nuisance abatement requires three years of evidence before even considering abatement procedures. I would urge the council to consider an ordinance that is clear enough to make enforcement simple. e.g. please consider limits to outdoor alcohol service, amplified audio, music, and entertainment. Finally, please consider a distance requirement between al fresco uses and residential buildings, regardless of zoning. There are apartment complexes outside of R zoning that will be impacted by this ordinance and ask that you consider those as well. This ordinance should also apply to food and catering trucks as well. Unfortunately, businesses that allow noisy patrons and amplified music are spoiling the benefits of al fresco dining for businesses that follow the rules. An ordinance that protects residents against violators and provides mechanisms for relief is therefore justified and necessary to adopt.