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# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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June 16, 2021

The Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr., Chair  
Economic Development and Jobs Committee  
Los Angeles City Council

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Chair  
Public Works Committee  
Los Angeles City Council

c/o Michael Espinosa  
Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

## **COUNCIL FILE 20-0499 CORONAVIRUS/SAFER AT HOME/FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY OPERATIONS/STREAMLINE CITY PROCESS AND APPROVALS**

Dear Councilmembers:

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file this report.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

On January 12, 2021, the City Council approved a report from the Economic Development Committee which contained the following Public Works Committee adopted the subject motion with the following instruction, among others:

INSTRUCT the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to evaluate and report on the following possible changes in operations generated from the Food and Beverage Working Group discussions:

- a. Coordinate with other City departments, as appropriate, and to report to Mayor and Council with options available to streamline the process of permitting sidewalk dining, including the potential for the City to adopt the streamlined Al Fresco permit process model, including implementing a fee for program cost recovery.



- b. Work with the City Attorney's Office to assess whether the current liability waiver and insurance requirements address liability concerns.

This report is a progress update on this first instruction. BOE has met with various City stakeholders to discuss the most efficient and effective way to transition existing Al Fresco sidewalk dining temporary approvals to regular approvals. After weighing alternatives with the stakeholders, the recommended approach to transition the sidewalk dining approvals is to continue to use the existing revocable permit process, but to analyze the Board of Public Works (BPW) policy on sidewalk dining to see if there are any revisions that could be recommended to be changed.

This approach is recommended because it is not the permit process itself that has been an issue for most applicants, but rather the City requirements that exist for sidewalk dining applications. Continuing to use the existing permitting vehicle would allow for faster implementation because a new permit and related processes would not have to be developed, and staff would not have to be retrained to learn a new process. BOE believes that this approach would provide the best balance of making the process easier on applicants while at the same time maximizing the processing efficiency of BOE staff.

BOE has analyzed all of the individual components of the existing BPW sidewalk dining policy and is drafting a Board Report containing recommended policy revisions for BPW consideration that would streamline the sidewalk dining process for applicants. BOE is nearing completion of the Board Report and expects to have it submitted for BPW consideration about a month from the date of this report.

Regarding instruction 1b and the request to revisit liability and insurance requirements, BOE has met with the City Attorney's office and in general the current revocable permit liability waiver and insurance requirements are satisfactory, although there may be some fine tuning of the language in the liability waiver. We will continue to meet with the City Attorney's office to finalize any language modifications.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact BOE Deputy City Engineer, Ted Allen, at [ted.allen@lacity.org](mailto:ted.allen@lacity.org).

Sincerely,



Electronically signed by 21866

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP  
City Engineer

GLM/TA:jgr

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cc: Jennifer McDowell, Office of the Mayor