

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to establishing a permanent *Al Fresco* dining program in the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), to prepare and present an Ordinance to establish application fees for on-street dining.
2. DIRECT the LADOT to report back on the application fees collected for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22; and, AUTHORIZE the LADOT to seek Council approval to set up an appropriation account within LADOT Trust Fund No. 840 based on the expenditure plan for the fees collected.
3. DIRECT the LADOT to report back in 90 days with grant eligibility criteria and a process for selecting and prioritizing locations for funding through the contractual services provided for in the FY 2022 budget.
4. DIRECT the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to report in 30 days with recommendations to revise the Sidewalk Dining Program and R-Permit process to expeditiously transition all existing L.A. *Al Fresco* Pilot Program participants that are operating in the public right-of-way into permanent sidewalk dining locations, including outreach to participating businesses to determine their interest and an assessment of whether the revised program will accommodate their locations.
5. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) and Department of City Planning, with support from the Los Angeles Fire Department, to report back in 30 days with recommendations to change the applicable regulations and permit procedures to expeditiously make this transition.
6. DIRECT the CAO, in consultation with relevant departments, to report with recommended fees to exempt existing program participants, and minimize the overall cost of permitting and to balance our cost recovery needs with the economic development and neighborhood revitalization objectives.
7. INSTRUCT the LADOT to waive any parking meter related fees, as detailed in the subject joint LADOT and BOE report, in the permanent L.A. *Al Fresco* Program.
8. INSTRUCT the LADOT to report back on the feasibility of establishing an ongoing *Al Fresco* dining business support-fund to help offset costs.

9. INSTRUCT the Economic and Workforce Development Department to report back on the development of an AI Fresco dining business resource program made available online in multiple languages as well as through the City's business resource centers.
10. INSTRUCT the BOE and LADOT to report back on a special outdoor dining permit process by which a single business stakeholder representative like a Business Improvement District or a Chamber of Commerce, may apply for an outdoor dining permit that covers multiple businesses in a commercial corridor.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY:

At a regular meeting held on October 5, 2021, the Transportation Committee considered a joint report from the LADOT and BOE relative to establishing a permanent L.A. AI Fresco dining program in the City.

During the discussion representatives from the LADOT, BOE and LADBS provided an overview of the matter and answered key questions from the Committee members. The Committee Chair offered amendments fine-tuning the Department's report backs. The Chair's amendments were complemented by additional amendments from Councilmember Buscaino.

Councilmember Koretz emphasized the success that outdoor dining has had throughout the City, and how this option has been critical in saving some of the restaurants during the pandemic. At the same time, the Councilmember reminded the Committee of the importance of hearing from other businesses since the loss of parking may negatively impact other businesses, and it will be important to mitigate those issues as things move forward.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended to adopt the joint LADOT and BOE recommendations as amended, as detailed in Recommendations No. 4 through No. 10.

This matter is now submitted to the Council for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER

BONIN:
KORETZ:
BUSCAINO:

VOTE

YES
YES
YES

LC 10/05/21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-