

Estanislau, Robin

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: Main Street

From: Deirdre Borrego <deirdre.borrego@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:30 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Main Street

As a long time HB resident and patron of Main Street, I feel compelled to share my opinion about recent developments.

I just learned that the City Council is considering removing the outdoor dining options recently put into place on Main Street. That this is even being considered is extremely disappointing especially for the businesses on the block between Olive and Orange that only recently were allowed this option. Earlier, when businesses were initially moving outdoors, my husband and I considered returning to Main Street establishments. However, we did not feel that it was safe enough with clear boundaries etc. Only recently, now that there is more organization and businesses have invested in creating welcoming spaces have we ventured back. Our experiences have been very positive and we plan to continue to do our part to support the area.

Through discussions with business owners on Main we realize the investment that has been made and we know for some long-standing businesses the next action would have been to close down and leave the area. Thanks to the expansion into the street these businesses are actually regaining some of the momentum lost during the pandemic. While apparently some businesses are complaining about lack of vehicular traffic, it should be considered that if we have a volume of unoccupied businesses there will be an even greater economic impact.

Some of the hallmarks of this crisis include changing guidelines (example: from no need to wear masks, to masks help, to masks are mandatory) and a lack of concern for public safety. To "end" the current state so soon given the time and effort thus far would be a huge mistake and send the wrong message. In addition, all guidelines still refer to the need to be outside vs. indoors.

In a time of unprecedented economic and physical loss, let's give the businesses a fighting chance and keep our HB residents safe. This community is innovative and agile, surely there is a way to give all businesses on Main a chance to survive.

Regards,

Deirdre Borrego

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 9-8-2020

Agenda Item No.: #28 (20-1854)