

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Monday, September 6, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Agenda Alerts
Cc: Frakes, Sandie
Subject: FW: FYI: Some OC Cities Begin Asking If Public Streets Should be Used For Private Restaurants (voiceofoc.org)

From: Dave Garofalo <hbnews1@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:51 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Fikes, Cathy <CFikes@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: FYI: Some OC Cities Begin Asking If Public Streets Should be Used For Private Restaurants (voiceofoc.org)

A good somewhat balanced story about closing streets for commercial use...

[Some OC Cities Begin Asking If Public Streets Should be Used For Private Restaurants \(voiceofoc.org\)](#)

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 9/7/2021

Agenda Item No.: 20(21-619)

ECONOMY

Some OC Cities Begin Asking If Public Streets Should be Used For Private Restaurants

BY **NOAH BIESIADA**

Published Sep 2, 2021 Updated 2 hours ago

Why you can trust Voice of OC



Main street in Downtown Huntington Beach remains closed off for outdoor dining on Sept. 1, 2021. Credit: JULIE LEOPO, Voice of OC

City council members throughout Orange County are taking a hard look at outdoor dining programs created during the pandemic, with some questioning if cities should be providing public spaces for private businesses.

Most cities in Orange County implemented an outdoor dining program over the past year, allowing restaurants to expand onto nearby sidewalks, parking lots and even the street to accommodate more customers due to the limitations imposed on indoor dining.

While cities have started to lift their states of emergency, many have decided to keep their expanded outdoor dining programs around for at least the near future.

[Read: [Orange County Cities Begin Dropping COVID Emergency Declarations As Cases Soar](#)]

Before Newport Beach terminated their local emergency on Jun. 22, they extended the outdoor dining permits to Sept. 6, and from there businesses can choose to file for an extension permit at no additional cost that would be reviewed individually going forward.

The Laguna Niguel City Council opted for a similar move, ending their local emergency and extending the temporary use permits for outdoor dining in commercial centers in one vote at their July 20 meeting.

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Huntington Beach has been one of the strongest supporters of outdoor dining, shutting down portions of Main Street for over a year, and the city council is set to discuss extending that closure through the end of the year at their Sept. 7 meeting.

HB City Councilman Mike Posey, who originally proposed closing down Main Street, said it's tough to balance outdoor dining, parking and general access to public streets.

"There's some validity to that, as the pandemic restrictions are lifted, that the necessity is probably running its course, and I did say when I brought it forward originally that the outdoor dining would have a short lifespan," Posey said in a Tuesday phone interview.

But, Posey said, there still could be an opportunity for some outdoor dining.

"There's probably an argument to be made to continue the closure of main street through the end of the year, but there's also an opportunity to look at restaurants on private property," he said.

In an interview on Tuesday, City Councilman Dan Kalmick said the outdoor dining on Main Street is part of an overhaul plan the city is creating to redesign downtown, and it could potentially wind up being permanent.

"I think the council is going to spend some money to really improve that downtown experience. It's easy to stay open in the summer with 4-5 million people walking by, but it's about bringing the residents in during the off season to spend time in your business,"

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