

I've been getting calls and emails and texts from hundreds of residents and local restaurant owners alike. Here are some recommendations that The City could implement immediately to help our local businesses survive while servicing our residents in a safe environment.

I. Abatements

(A) Waive Sidewalk Café permitting fees for at least 6 months. For semiannual payments due in April, waive them. For annual payors offer a 50% reduction for next year (October payments).

(B) BTR fees – waive or reduce BTR fees due in October, under certain conditions, communicate it now to provide hope and encouragement.

II. Open Outdoor Seating

(A) Open sidewalk cafes citywide ASAP, or starting with non-MXE if there are City Administration concerns about Memorial Day Weekend crowd control.

(B) Do away with zoning rules for outside seating and allow restaurants to put as many outside seats as possible with a 6 foot spread: let restaurants use available parking or even travel lanes to set up sidewalk cafe tables, allow consumption of neighboring sidewalk café space if neighbor is not operating.

(C) Quick, free one day application and turnaround to allow inspection of operating protocols by City.

(D) Continue to allow restaurants to-go liquor sales (hat tip Buzzy Sklar).

III. Parking: Temporarily all street parking should revert to \$1 per hour (perhaps Resolution effective until 11/1/2020 and revisit it then)... we need to compete for