



RESOLUTION NO. 40783

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS McCARTHY, THOMS, AND WALKER

2 A RESOLUTION directing the City Manager to bring recommendations to the
3 Economic Development Committee for allowing reasonable permanent
4 outdoor dining options in addition to sidewalk cafes, including parklets, and
5 streateries in the City of Tacoma, prior to the expiration of the Curbside
6 Café and Market Pilot Program on September 6, 2021, or four months after
7 the City's emergency declaration is lifted.

8 WHEREAS, during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, the
9 Planning and Development Services ("PDS") and Public Works ("PW")
10 Departments undertook several initiatives to assist the business community in
11 addressing the impacts caused by the pandemic, and

12 WHEREAS, in Phase 1 of the state's Stay Home, Stay Safe order, the City
13 introduced temporary Food Loading Zones and ADA parking stalls, and in Phase 2
14 of the state's Safe Start phased reopening plan, the City promoted the temporary
15 Curbside Café and Market Program and existing temporary Sidewalk Café Program,
16 and

17 WHEREAS the Community and Economic Development Department and
18 Downtown Tacoma Partnership also partnered on the 8th Street Eatery that opened
19 a street to pedestrians and customers, and

20 WHEREAS curbside café/markets, also known as streateries or parklets,
21 are similar to sidewalk cafés but are located in a parking space in the right-of-way,
22 and function as an extension to an existing restaurant's seating area or retail store,
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WHEREAS curbside cafes/markets are permitted to be used only during the regular operating business hours of the host establishment; private use of the public right-of-way typically requires entering into a formal agreement with the City, and

WHEREAS, as a pilot program, this requirement was waived in an effort to support local businesses affected by closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS a permit for the Curbside Café and Market Pilot and Sidewalk Café programs can accommodate temporary structures such as tables, chairs, planters, merchant displays, and shade coverings, and

WHEREAS the intent of these pilot programs are to increase the capacity for businesses to comply with the requirements of Governor Inslee’s Safe Start phased reopening plan, and

WHEREAS the City has historically invested in the public right-of-way in ways that support additional outdoor commerce; while outdoor dining options have proven to be successful economic drivers that activate outdoor spaces across the City, a number of problems have been identified:

- Current permanent outdoor dining options have more barriers and higher costs than the temporary pilot options rolled out during the COVID-19 emergency;
- The temporary nature of the current pilot disincentives businesses from investing funds in outdoor dining infrastructure;
- While businesses speak highly of the City’s permit staff, they have described barriers to finding the right permit information and have requested a smoother entry point; and



- Spaces right outdoors of restaurants are sometimes ineligible for outdoor dining options due to minimal sidewalk space, slope of sidewalk, or other characteristics; and

WHEREAS all outdoor dining options across the City should be reviewed, including sidewalk cafes, parklets, streateries, and other options allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, to identify how to reduce barriers to outdoor dining, including (1) creating one point of entry for City permitting for all outdoor dining options; (2) reviewing restrictions based on size of sidewalk available outside of restaurants and proposing potential alternatives to remove barriers for these restaurants; and (3) consideration of how to reduce any other startup costs for restaurants, and

WHEREAS, when forming recommendations, outreach to a broad group of stakeholders, including the Downtown Tacoma Partnership, the Cross District Association of Tacoma, the Commission on Disabilities, and the Transportation Commission, should be included, and the stakeholders should participate in the review of future program considerations identified at the Economic Development Committee meeting of April 27, 2021, including parklet locations; program and design approach; race and social justice; community support; parklet operation and maintenance; accessibility; parking demands; cost to construct; competing City priorities; and staffing, and

WHEREAS all residents and visitors to the City rely on the public right-of-way to travel the City, and individuals with a mobility disability rely on unobstructed sidewalks for access, and

WHEREAS the Americans with Disabilities Act set standards for accessible design; while considering how to lower barriers on business to create outdoor



dining spaces, the City Manager shall include the City of Tacoma's Commission on
1 Disabilities in outreach efforts, to ensure the City is accessible to all; Now,

2 Therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

4 Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to bring recommendations to the
5 Economic Development Committee for allowing reasonable permanent outdoor
6 dining options in addition to sidewalk cafes, including parklets, and streateries in the
7 City of Tacoma. The Economic Development Committee shall review the proposed
8 recommendations and recommend final changes for City Council consideration
9 prior to expiration of the Curbside Café and Market Pilot Program on September 6,
10 2021, or four months after the City's emergency declaration is lifted.
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12 Section 2. That the City Manager is directed to review all outdoor dining
13 options across the City, including sidewalk cafes, parklets, streateries, and other
14 options allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and consider how to reduce
15 barriers to outdoor dining, including (1) creating one point of entry for City
16 permitting for all outdoor dining options; (2) reviewing restrictions based on size of
17 sidewalk available outside of restaurants and proposing potential alternatives to
18 remove barriers for these restaurants; and (3) considering how to reduce any other
19 startup costs for restaurants.
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22 Section 3. That, when forming recommendations, the City Manager shall
23 include outreach to a broad group of stakeholders, including the Downtown
24 Tacoma Partnership, the Cross District Association of Tacoma, the Commission on
25 Disabilities, and the Transportation Commission, and these stakeholders should
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participate in the review of future program considerations identified at the
Economic Development Committee meeting of April 27, 2021.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney