



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
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**COVID-19 Business Recovery Task Force Subcommittee Meeting -
Tourism/Hospitality/Restaurants**

CITY HALL Telephonic/Video Conference Meeting
Call in: (916) 235-1420 or (888) 468-1195
Updated Participant Code: 872120
Beverly Hills City Hall
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**Friday, May 22, 2020
2:00PM**

HIGHLIGHTS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date & Time: May 22, 2020 @ 2:03pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lili Bosse, Councilmember; Dr. Julian Gold, MD, Councilmember; Howard Fisher, City Treasurer; George Chavez, City Manager; Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager; Laurence Wiener, City Attorney; Susan Healy-Keene, Director of Community Development; David Schirmer, Director of Information Technology; Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works; Ryan Gohlich, Assistant Director of Community Development; Tatiana Szerwinski, Assistant Director of Finance; Laura Biery, Marketing & Economic Sustainability Manager; Julie Wagner, BH Conference & Visitors Bureau; Todd Johnson, BH Chamber of Commerce; Giacomino Drago, Restaurateur; Sandy Murphy, Hotel & Hospitality; Barbara Lazaroff, Restaurateur; Offer Nissenbaum, Hotel & Hospitality; Marino Monferrato, Restaurateur; Honorable Bob Tannenbaum, Peter Garland, Restaurateur, Matt Egan (via email), Restaurateur; Steve Mayer, David Mirharooni, Lisa Karson, Executive Assistant.

1) Public Comment

- a. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Subcommittee on any item listed on the agenda.

Steve Mayer voiced concerns re ~~AirBnb~~Airbnb. Propose in next urgency ordinance a revision that ~~AirBnb~~Airbnb be prohibited in the City as there is no oversight on safety measures taken by landlords/renters.

David Mirharooni voiced interest in if the City will consider removing two lanes on Canon Dr. to expand sidewalk for outdoor dining and valet services.

Bob Tannenbaum requested to re-examine opening the restaurants in the City to address mental and economic issues, requested the City take an assessment of how many are going bankrupt, urging the City to reduce fear factor by having open meetings.

2) **Update regarding items discussed at the May 19, 2020 Beverly Hills City Council meeting**

Laura Biery, Marketing & Economic Sustainability Manager, provided the following updates from the May 19, 2020 Beverly Hills City Council meeting:

- Staff has begun researching ways to expand outside dining options.
- City Council took action to further defer the transient occupancy tax payments for hoteliers and establish payment plans for those hotels that have requested them.
- Directed staff to return 6/2 for ordinance to cap delivery fees that restaurants are charged by third party vendors.
- Directed staff to research safety protocol mandates including temperature checks of customers as they enter establishments.
- Already researching: outdoor dining restrictions, curbside parking meters, and marketing campaign with a strong message of safety.
- Safety messaging campaign may include visuals, signs and window decal reminders of social distancing and face coverings.

3) **State of the County update on latest LA County Health Order changes**

Laura Biery, Marketing & Economic Sustainability Manager, provided the following updates on the LA County Health Order changes:

- LA County has extended curbside pickup to all retailers.
- Select meters throughout the City have been converted to free curbside pickup meters.
- BHPD Lt. Maycott discussed safety measures for curbside pickup.
- LA County is now permitting car parades with restrictions.
- Safer at Home continues, however updates to relax some of the measures will be announced in coming weeks.

4) Discussion regarding hotel restaurants and hotel facilities

Open discussion outlined the following topics and comments:

- Peter Garland shared that any restaurant that serves inside of their restaurant will be shut down for 7 weeks per Health Department; LA County has oversight on restaurants.
- Barbara Lazaroff shared that the Health Department oversees all food service as does ABC on alcohol; it's not something that the City can be more lenient on. It's a matter of influencing the county or the Governor; ABC just designated they are relaxing restrictions regarding serving alcohol outdoors.
- Councilmember Gold questioned if there is an outdoor space where seating is available and carry out service is provided, is there anything that would preclude someone from picking up take out, and sitting down to eat. Councilmember Bosse, City Attorney Laurence Wiener and Laura Biery replied that it is not allowed as LA County is not permitting it at this time.
- Offer Nissenbaum questioned what would happen to the City if State order was defied and restaurants opened; City Attorney Laurence Wiener replied the City might lose disaster funding if the City defied State orders and may result in possible costly litigation and potential criminal liability.
- Todd Johnson commented that the City of Big Bear is openly defying the State order and they are waiting to see what repercussions will occur; City Manager George Chavez reminded that Beverly Hills was the only city in CA to be fined for drought issues and that the State loves to make an example of our city.
- Giacomino Drago questioned what the city will do to support restaurants for dining on the street, ambiance, flowers, planters, etc.; Barbara Lazaroff replied NYC is working on ambiance and schematics for their restaurants and that they will be a good example as Beverly Hills has more room than they do.
- Councilmember Gold clarified that the focus of this task force is to address the things we should be doing to help make our restaurants successful when they can reopen: close streets, decorations, distancing, etc. Councilmember Bosse added that the "how" part: driveways, traffic - the City will work on that. This is an opportunity for a wish list when we are able to open back up.

5) Discussion regarding additional outdoor dining measures:

a. Consideration of closing down streets for pedestrian only access temporarily to expand outdoor dining

Open discussion provided the following comments:

- Barbara Lazaroff stated some restaurants may have to use a sidewalk where diners might not be comfortable sitting where the public may pass by them. Feels temperature monitoring will make patrons feel safe in their restaurants as well as employees working in the restaurants.

- Laura Biery shared an email comment by Matt Egan explaining he is a new restaurant owner at 419 N. Canon. He is requesting the City find a way to accommodate additional seating options for restaurants as well as to consider partial or full road closures to create street dining.
- Todd Johnson shared he has spoken to a number of businesses on Canon and they are open to change, however if you shut the street down, it would be problematic and that is something that should be considered; Councilmember Bosse requests Todd Johnson to send out a poll to restaurants on their thoughts on the idea.

b. Input regarding automatic renewal of outdoor dining permits

- Laura Biery explained the long term outdoor dining permits renew on a 5-year cycle; proposal is to renew what that renewal cycle and process could look like with the City. ABC has approved restaurants to serve alcohol outside of their establishments, there is a \$100 one time application fee for this permit listed on the ABC website.

6) Open discussion on particular items by the Subcommittee

Open discussion provided the following comments:

- Barbara Lazaroff requested to continue discussion on moving ahead on planning in considering street closures, decking, etc.
- Councilmember Gold stated he would like us to be time aggressive to see this through. Requesting to actively work on the issues regarding opening back up; City Manager George Chavez stated the main issue will be whether the streets will be partially or completely closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Date & Time: May 22, 2020 @ 3:14pm