



**Beverly Hills City Council /
COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance Task Force -
Tourism/Hospitality/Restaurants Subcommittee**

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

**Thursday, May 7, 2020
2:00 PM**

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

AGENDA

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date / Time: May 7, 2020 / 2:01 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilmember Julian A. Gold, M.D., Councilmember Lili Bosse, City Treasurer Howard S. Fisher, City Auditor Eduardo Luna, Assistant City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Deputy City Manager Gabriella Yap, Director of Finance Jeff S. Muir, Chief Information Officer David Schirmer, Director of Public Works Shana Epstein, Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene, Assistant Director of Community Development Ryan Gohlich, Marketing and Economic Sustainability Manager Laura Biery, Todd Johnson (Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce), Julie Wagner (Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau), Barbara Lazaroff (Spago and CUT), Offer Nissenbaum (The Peninsula Beverly Hills), Sandy Murphy (The Beverly Hilton), Giacomino Drago (Restaurateur), Peter Garland (Porta Via), Marino Monferrato (Gucci Osteria), Patty Stevens (Gucci Osteria)

- 1) Public Comment
 - a. None
- 2) Discussion regarding Tourism Items:
 - a. Transient Occupancy Tax payment deferrals for hotels
 1. Discussion between the Task Force members of additional payment deferrals or payment plans
 2. Councilmember Bosse and Councilmember Gold recommended to put this item on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. Additionally, Councilmember Gold recommended understanding the City's financial impacts and formulating a longer term plan.
- 3) Discussion regarding Restaurant Items:
 - a. Outdoor dining policies and opportunities for the future of outdoor dining in Beverly Hills

1. The Task Force members discussed the following details related to outdoor dining: operating at low occupancy; street closures, sidewalks, parking structures, or cul-de-sacs to allow for outdoor dining; seating spaced out for distancing; relaxing guidelines and requirements, masks for patrons or staff; the size of the restaurants; liquor licensing; required temperature taking; safety/sanitation; bar area/bar stools; rule enforcement; valet; rooftop dining; liabilities; illness work compensation; parking and meter options.
 2. Councilmember Bosse discussed the idea of utilizing the lane of parking for outdoor dining options. Councilmember Bosse mentioned the importance of enforcement or consequences for rules put in place. Councilmember Bosse reminded that the City cannot be more lenient than state and County guidelines, but has the option to be stricter.
 3. The City Council Liaisons suggested bringing recommendations to City Council so when the restaurants are ready to open (County/State guidelines lifted), the recommendations will already be in place and they can open right away.
 4. Councilmember Gold noted there will be some differences in needs/details for stand-alone restaurants vs. restaurants in hotels. Councilmember Gold mentioned that mandates should be in line with surrounding cities to keep Beverly Hills restaurants competitive with other cities (masks as an example).
 5. An outside caller made a comment suggestion for outdoor dining in front of adjacent buildings if the neighboring business allows it.
- b. Discussion regarding preventive measure mandates at restaurants
1. Task force members preferred for any decisions taken to be done as mandates rather than guidelines to help with enforcement.
 2. Councilmember Gold mentioned that mandates should be in line with surrounding cities to keep Beverly Hills restaurants competitive with other cities (masks as an example).
 3. The City Council Liaisons discussed enforcement strategies for potential ordinances, including education, the help of the City, and the help of the restaurants.
 4. A focal point of discussion was measures moving forward regarding dine-in options. This included: social distancing between tables, staff and/or customers being required to wear masks, mandatory temperature tests prior to entering establishments, etc.
 5. Councilmember Bosse remarked on the importance of taking into account legal considerations for the mandates.
- c. Discussion regarding commission caps for delivery service providers
1. There was discussion regarding assisting the restaurants with providing a salary cap rather than each restaurant negotiating/making decisions on their own with the delivery companies.
 2. There was discussion regarding safety provisions with third party delivery companies.

3. The City Council Liaisons suggested that they would be in approval if the City Attorney can research other state/county ordinances to see what legally could work for Beverly Hills and bring back this item for the City Council to discuss.
- 4) Open discussion on particular items for the Subcommittee:
 - a. Have there been governmental programs made available to your business that you have been able to utilize in dealing with the Covid crisis?
 1. Task Force members suggested the following ideas:
 1. Payroll protection plans or loans for small businesses
 2. Raising funds for restaurant workers (relief programs)
 - b. Are you aware of programs in other jurisdictions which might be helpful to businesses in Beverly Hills?
 1. Councilmember Bosse and Councilmember Gold recommended that task force members e-mail any program suggestions to compile a list.
 - c. What specific activities can the City of Beverly Hills do to assist your business in the immediate future?
 1. A Task Force member suggested signage or messaging.
 - d. What specific activities can the City of Beverly Hills do to assist your business as the restrictions are lifted?
 1. A Task Force member mentioned keeping the dedicated parking meters for take-out business.
 - e. Are there obstacles imposed by the City that you believe will slow your recovery?
 1. It was mentioned that this would be dependent on County and State mandates.
 - f. Are there partners other than the City that you believe will be helpful in the recovery process?
 1. There were no comments on this item.
 - g. Are there obstacles from external sources that you believe will be present hindering the recovery process?
 1. It was mentioned that this would be dependent on County and State mandates.
 - h. Additional comments
 1. Councilmember Bosse mentioned that messaging and marketing is important in informing the public that Beverly Hills is safe, and to come to Beverly Hills and dine in Beverly Hills.
 2. Councilmember Gold suggested the idea of stands that provide masks or sanitizers. Councilmember Bosse added on the idea of utilizing Ambassadors to assist with this idea.
 3. A Task Force member suggested the idea of making the City more pedestrian-friendly.

5) Adjournment – 3:27 PM