

From: [David Robkin](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment on item AR-2 of City Council meeting agenda for 02/01/2022
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 6:02:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Clerk,

I would like to submit my comment in reference to the above agenda item for the City Council meeting of 02/01/2022. Specifically I would like to express, in the strongest possible terms, that suspending the Temporary Outdoor Business Operations (TOBO) permits at this time would be severely detrimental to my business operations.

I own and operate Wingwalker Brewing at 235 West Maple Ave. in town. There are additional factors that apply to all of the breweries in town that are not mentioned in the staff report. These are:

- 1) Breweries are especially prohibited from serving patrons indoors unless they can produce a valid vaccination card. We are subject to random inspection and severe fines if we do not enforce this requirement. Restaurants are not required to enforce a similar restriction; it is merely "suggested" that they do so.
- 2) All of the breweries that conducting business under the TOBO permits are doing so on private land, not public spaces and not in areas where the outdoor operations directly impact area businesses. Since the specific issue raised by the MOTAB (Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board) is the unfair advantage enjoyed by TOBO permit holders benefiting from the use of public spaces I am asking if an exemption to the permit suspension could be made for those businesses not located either on Myrtle Avenue or in Old Town proper.
- 3) I believe the staff conclusion that there will be no fiscal impact from suspending TOBO permits to be inaccurate. While there will certainly be no direct cost, the informal information I have from my patrons indicate that 30-50% of them are not yet comfortable with indoor events or dining and would choose not to go out if the option for outdoor patronage is not available.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute. I hope the Council is understanding to the needs of businesses outside of Old Town in this matter.

Yours,

David Robkin

--

David Robkin
Founder
Tarrtháil Madra Brewing

Wingwalker Brewing
323-864-7067

From: [David Robkin](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Additional comment on AR-2 agenda item.
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 6:17:32 PM

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Dear City Clerk,

In my previous email I mentioned that breweries are prohibited from serving patrons inside unless they can show vaccination (Item 1 in my earlier email).

I would like to emphasize that point further by observing that 50-75% of my patrons choose outdoor service over indoor when they are reminded of this requirement.

Thanks again for your understanding.

Dave

--

David Robkin
Founder
Tarrháil Madra Brewing
Wingwalker Brewing
323-864-7067

From: [Rosemary Gavidia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Outdoor seating permit
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 7:29:06 PM

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I am writing in support of keeping Temporary Outdoor Business Operation (TOBO) Permits. As stated on the staff report, "Through the monthly evaluation of the program, MOTAB reported that the public response to the expanded outdoor dining was positive and well received by the community. However, as winter approached the number of diners using the outdoor space diminished."

The decrease of outdoor dining in the winter is common. We have 1 month left till Spring.

Most of the businesses who hold these permits are small independent businesses. Small businesses add to the character of our city and during these tough times we must do everything we can to support them. Outdoor dining has been a huge factor in keeping many of our businesses alive during covid. Please keep outdoor operation permits active.

Thank you, Rosemary Gavidia

From: [Holly Earle](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: outdoor dining permit - comment for meeting
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 7:59:50 PM

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I understand the City Council is considering suspending outdoor dining permits at the next city council meeting. As a 34 year resident and voter, I would like to express my support for maintaining the current permit system. It doesn't appear covid is under control yet and this system allows us to safely enjoy our local eateries and breweries. I'm fully vaccinated and boosted but feel safer outside right now.

Thanks for considering my opinion.
Holly Earle

From: [Gale Baker](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: URGENT: Comment re Proposal Before the City Council
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:47:09 PM

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It is my understanding that the City Council will be considering whether to suspend the outdoor business permits put in place because of Covid.

I am adamantly opposed to suspending those permits. Covid is not over, and I and many of my friends and family members regularly frequent the outdoor dining areas in Monrovia like the "parklet" in front of Cafe de Olla only BECAUSE they are outside -- it is not yet safe to eat inside a restaurant. If the permits are suspended it will not only hurt our local restaurants, but leave many, many residents no choice but to forgo dining out or go to a neighboring city.

Gale S. Baker
240 W. Lime Ave
Monrovia, CA

From: [Anuj Kapoor](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Retaining outdoor permits
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:50:21 PM

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Hello,

I'm a resident of Monrovia and would like to ensure that our restaurants retain their outdoor permits. We don't feel comfortable eating inside and will not be dining in our restaurants if outdoor is not an option. Thank you for the consideration.

Anuj

Anuj Kapoor

From: [Cynthia Chen](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment for Monrovia City Council meeting 2/1/2022
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 10:58:50 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

In regards to the agenda item : Recommendation from Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB) to Suspend Temporary Outdoor Business Operation (TOBO) Permits

Having read through the report prepared by Tina Cherry, the recommendation to suspend TOBO permits stems from issues that MOTAB members have with businesses in Old Town, particularly those utilizing public property at no cost to benefit their private businesses.

This recommendation is NOT in relation to the 4 non-TOBO holders who are not MOTAB members. Our business, for example, utilizes the TOBO and it has been one of the only ways in which we could garner reasonable revenue (we're not even back to pre-pandemic levels) to operate a business. Without the TOBO, we will have to shut down.

The problems that MOTAB members are raising are not relevant to our business at all. We do not operate our outdoor business on public property, we do not enjoy the use of public property for our own personal benefit, and we do not compete with MOTAB businesses for Old Town customers.

We ask that the Council consider the ramifications of suspending the TOBO on other Monrovia businesses besides MOTAB businesses and if only the MOTAB businesses seek a suspension, then allow non-MOTAB businesses to continue operating with their TOBO permits. Allow TOBO holders who operate on their own private property to continue.

Shutting down our business would drive out over \$2 million dollars in capital investment not to mention the tax dollars that we send to Monrovia every year and having to lay off the skilled labor we hire.

We thank you for your time.

Cindy Nagamura Chen
Monrovia small business owner
Cinquecento LLC

(518)768-1882

From: [brittany stead](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Outdoor dining
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 10:32:20 AM

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To whom it may concern, please do not remove the option for outdoor dining. There isn't much freedom left . It is imperative that outdoor dining remain open. For the sake of the people, these already struggling small restaurants & for monrovia. People need that community vibe.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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