

CURBSIDE SAN DIEGO: TEMPORARY OUTDOOR BUSINESS OPERATION PERMITS

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT this proposal on June 9, 2020. The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT this proposal on June 25, 2020.

RATIONALE: This creative permitting program would authorize retail businesses and restaurants to expand their footprints, allowing them to serve more customers and increase their capacities, while also observing state and county social distancing requirements. Retail and restaurant businesses have suffered dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and this policy would help them increase their operating capacity.

STATUS: The City of San Diego's Development Services Department plans to bring this proposal before the City Council later this month for final approval.

SUMMARY:

Local retail stores and restaurants have been devastated by the economic impacts of COVID-19 over the last several months. The proposed Temporary Outdoor Business Operation Permit proposal will allow for the use of a street, sidewalk, parking lane, or private property for business. This proposal will support the recovery of retail stores and restaurants by assisting those businesses with limited footprints to operate in outdoor settings adjacent to their businesses. According to the City's [website](#), the goal of the program is to "help dining and retail outlets with space constraints expand operations outdoors so they can cost-effectively implement safety, health and distancing protocols."

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

This proposal would impact retail stores, wholesalers, and restaurants, as well as property owners/managers and business improvement districts/public space management organizations.

SUPPORTERS

- Downtown San Diego Partnership
- Circulate San Diego
- San Diego County Lodging Association
- California Restaurant Association – San Diego Chapter
- San Diego Bike Coalition
- Climate Action Campaign
- Gaslamp Quarter Association
- East Village Association
- Little Italy Association

OPPONENTS

- None known

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

- Restaurants and retailers desperately need support from both public and private sectors.
- While capital is still needed, providing additional space for these businesses is a low-cost program for the city to support this industry.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

- Closing streets will increase traffic and removing parking spots will prevent patrons from accessing the retail stores and restaurants that this proposal intends to support.

- Car traffic has dropped since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and less street space is needed for vehicles.

MORE INFORMATION

More information can be found on the Development Services Department's Temporary Outdoor Business Operation Permit website [here](#).