



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: March 15, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager
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FROM: Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director
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SUBJECT: Adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 1892(22), Authorizing Temporary Outdoor Dining Through December 31, 2022 at Restaurants and Food Service Establishments to Alleviate Economic Hardship and Preserve Public Peace, Health and Safety

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Adopt, by a 4/5 vote, Urgency Ordinance No. 1892(22) (Attachment 1), authorizing temporary outdoor dining at restaurants and food service establishments through December 31, 2022, to alleviate economic hardship and preserve public peace, health and safety; or
- 2) Provide alternate direction.

Background:

In March 2020, in response to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor of California related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and executive orders directing measures to mitigate the spread of cases of COVID-19 within the state, the City Council adopted a proclamation of a local emergency related to the COVID-19 virus.

On July 6, 2021, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1682(21) (Attachment 2), which temporarily suspended City regulations that would prohibit outdoor operation of City businesses until December 31, 2021.

Discussion:

The closure of businesses due to COVID-19 has resulted in severe economic hardship for many businesses in Lompoc and this economic hardship is very likely to continue,

even after the City Council declares an end to the local state of emergency. Many restaurants and food service establishments are taking advantage of the outdoor dining options in order to reduce the economic impact from the restrictions imposed during the variety of mitigation measures imposed by the County and State to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Per City Council request, staff has drafted an ordinance extending the ability for restaurants and food service establishments to have outdoor dining through December 31, 2022.

A 4/5 vote of the City Council required for the ordinance to take effect immediately.

Fiscal Impact:

Allowing businesses to continue providing outdoor dining through December 31, 2022, has no direct fiscal impact to the City, but would allow those businesses to continue to generate revenue.

Conclusion:

Extension of the outdoor dining allowance is recommended as an effort to allow businesses to rebuild and adapt to current operational requirements.

Respectfully submitted:

Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Ordinance No. 1892(22)
2) Ordinance No. 1682(21)