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March 24, 2023

The Honorable Traci Park  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Suite 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: The Future of Al Fresco Dining in the City of Los Angeles**

Dear Councilmember Park:

Serving the communities of Westchester, Marina del Rey, Playa Vista, Playa del Rey, Ladera Heights, and surrounding areas of Los Angeles, the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce promotes business and enhances the vitality of our community through member services, educational programs, strategic partnerships, community outreach and legislative advocacy.

I am writing to express our Chamber of Commerce's concern over the future of outdoor dining in the City of Los Angeles and to ask for your aggressive leadership on this issue.

During the Covid Pandemic outdoor dining was a vital lifeline for restaurants struggling to stay open. The City of Los Angeles moved with admirable speed to create an affordable permitting program to allow restaurants to move outside.

Not only has outdoor dining proven essential for many restaurants to survive but it has proven popular with customers. While this winter has been a wet exception, we live in a region where eating outdoors can be a pleasant experience nearly 365 days a year.

With the Covid crisis ending, the city's Planning Department proposed a regulatory structure and permit fees that would have made outdoor dining difficult to continue. Following significant outcry, they agreed to go back to the drawing board to identify a reasonable process comparable to the interim program established early in the Covid crisis.

However, we believe the only way to achieve a positive outcome is for a Councilperson to step forward now and take ownership of this issue and ride herd on the city's bureaucracy. Left to their own devices we are pessimistic about what they will propose next.

We believe you are the perfect Councilmember for the job! We hope that you will stand tall for the restaurants in Council District 11 and throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Maender", written in a cursive style.

Chad Maender  
President/CEO

