General Public Comment Received

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. Cassandra Ensberg on behalf of Citizens for the Restoration of Community Equity	x	

May 17, 2022

To: Santa Barbara Mayor & City Council

From: Citizens for the Restoration of Community Equity

Re: Extended 'Interim' Period thru Dec 2023
Restoration of community equity for State Street and Downtown.
Focus on Santa Barbara's culture and built and natural environment.

Dear Honorable Leaders – Santa Barbara Mayor and City Council,

Your action as our mayor and council leaders is needed!

The Public Realm belongs to the community – for all to use and to enjoy as is agreed through consensus and a formal, transparent, inclusive democratic process. When emergencies happen, temporary measures are necessary, and Santa Barbara did instigate temporary measures when the Covid 19 Global Pandemic came in 2020. 2 years is a long time to be temporary. Some businesses have benefitted and done very well, others have seen revenues decline, and bikes took over the State Street.

The Mayor and Council now need to work in concert with each other and the City Administrator to provide the leadership necessary to take immediate 'emergency' measures and help our struggling small businesses by restoring equity / fairness and refocusing on our city's culture and beauty. Many cities have made this step and have realized the benefits. Now is that pivotal time for Santa Barbara.

There are so many ideas from our community about how State Street and the public areas should be used. This underscores the reason we need to let the many ideas be hashed out as part of the Master Plan. Everyone has an opinion. **Let the Masterplan process help us - as a community - to figure out what Santa Barbara will ultimately decide to do. In the meantime, and right now, let's get back to what we know has worked for the majority and implement the following:**

1. Make permits available rapidly over the counter for outdoor dining on the public sidewalk leased to the business by the city with the following suggested requirements:
-An over-the-counter permit for outdoor dining on public sidewalks requires the applicant to prepare and submit a complete application for approval including a proposed plan layout based upon the area allowed, and specifications for all components proposed for use within the allowed area.
-All applications that are within the El Pueblo Viejo District (EPV) must meet EPV Guidelines.
-The city has the information regarding the area allowed for lease compiled and readily available for each property location.
-The area allowed will not intrude into the area required for pedestrians on the sidewalk.
-The allowed area shall be contiguous to the business, and shall not exceed the width of the business' storefront.
-The rent is based upon a per square foot basis.
-A Deposit and first and last month rent is due at the time permit is issued.
-Monthly rent is due on the first of each month.
-Components shall include:

A. Easily removable black metal posts and rails to contain the space
B. Outdoor patio chairs and ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant tables
C. White string lights are allowed low in plants in planters or on black perimeter posts and rails. Overhead lighting is not allowed. City has installed overhead 'Tivoli' style string lighting at intersections and is in process of adding more parallel to the street.
D. Market style umbrellas are allowed in approved designated colors.

E. Potted plants and clay terracotta pots are allowed, other planter types may be approved for the EPV district. Plastic planters are not allowed.
F. Heaters as may be approved.
G. Signage according to the Municipal Code Sign Ordinance.

2. Remove all 'parklets'

Require removal of all ‘parklets’ as soon as possible and ideally before the end of May to allow the clean-up and restoration of equity and parity to be completed before the high summer season. The removal date shall not be tied to any permit for outdoor dining that may be under consideration or in process. Removal includes but is not limited to:

A. Prefab or custom constructions,
B. Platforms,
C. Debris under platforms shall be hauled away, and properly disposed of to leave area of sidewalk and street (as applicable) cleaned and hosed off.
D. Railings,
E. Overhead elements,
F. Lighting,
G. Heaters,
H. Tables, chairs, planters and plants. Tables, chairs, planters and plants may possibly be reused for permitted outdoor dining if they meet requirements of #1 above.

3. State and downtown street use and restoration measures

A. Eradicate - Paint out green bike graphics on the street.
B. Continue bike use on State Street **within bike lanes**. -Restore and refurbish the white lines, where required, to designate bike lanes - down and up State on the sides of street.
C. Maintain State Street closed to private autos. Allow center lanes of street to be used exclusively for:
C.1 Emergency Vehicles
C.2 Delivery Vehicles at specified times of day
C.3 Open Air Trolley
The city consider negotiating with private open air trolley services, (at no cost or liability to the city) to allow private Trolley Companies access to operate and provide service up and down State Street from Cabrillo to Sola.
D. Restore automobile use of Victoria Street.
E. Create a fair and equitable environment by treating all blocks the same from the 400 through the 1300 block (Gutierrez Street to Sola Street).

We ask the Mayor and Council to act swiftly to make these adjustments in the short term to restore equity and the beauty that is Santa Barbara for all to enjoy and benefit from moving into the summer high season. The separate Master Plan effort will take on the work to consider the many ideas, develop design solutions, and help the community reach a consensus for Santa Barbara’s future. Thank you for taking responsible action that will help to restore our community.

Sincerely, Citizens for the Restoration of Community Equity
Kevin Boss, Downtown Property & Restaurant Owner
Cassandra Ensberg, Citizen

Ann & Craig Addis, Funk Zone Business Owners
Richard & Sue Ayling, Citizens
John Bennett, Downtown Restaurant Owner
Gwynn Boss, Downtown Property & Restaurant Owner
Kelly Brown, Downtown Restaurant Owner
Thomas Byrne, Downtown Bar Owner
Jacqueline Cacan, SB Native
Patrick Casey, Downtown Restaurant Owner
Bill Collyer, Former Downtown Organization Executive Director
Mary Louise Days

John Davies, Downtown Business Owner
Lois Ensberg, Citizen
Dale Francisco, former City Council Member
Erin Graffy, Citizen
Jeff Harding, Property Owner
Brian Hofer, Citizen
Ivonne Ibarra, Business Owner, Santa Barbara Resident
Tom Jacobs, Santa Barbara Business Owner
Brian Johnson, Citizen
Jim Knell, Downtown Property Owner
Steve Leider, Commercial Real Estate Broker
Dave Lombardi, Downtown Business Owner
Barrett Reed, Downtown Property Owner
Tara Rizzi, SB Resident

Copy: SB City Administration (Rebecca Bjork), City Attorney (Ariel Colonne), SB Planning Commission, SB Historic Landmarks Commission, SB Architectural Board of Review, State Street Interim Committee (Councilpersons Mike Jordan, Kristin Sneddon, Oscar Gutierrez), Community Development (Elias Isaacson), Economic Development (Jason Harris), State Street Master Plan (Tess Harris, Dave Davis, Ken Saxon), Transportation (Sarah Clark, Jessica Grant), Police (Barney Melekian), Fire (Chris Mailes), Public Works (Cliff Maurer), Santa Barbara Downtown Organization (Robin Elander) , Noozhawk, SB News Press, Independent, Montecito Journal, Voice Magazine,