

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 6:12 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Item 10-1 Parklets

Council members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed parklet program.

I have two recommendations and one request for clarification, I believe would provide a more equitable parklet program.

I agree with the recommendation by staff of "2 spaces per applicant if more than 40% of parking spaces on a block are utilized by parklets". I believe additional clarity could be provided about how this is measured. Is a "block" one side of a street or both sides or is it the parking along the four streets that define a city block. Add language to the effect of "2 spaces per applicant if more than 40% of parking spaces on a block **face** are utilized by parklets". If the intent is to count the aggregate parking on both sides of a street this should be clearly stated.

From here on I assume that the staff recommendation meant block face.

I believe this standard has the potential to create some inequities that favors the first and/or second applicant to submit on a block face. On blocks with less than 12 spaces the first two applicants on a block face could get 3 spaces each, this would limit any future applicant to two spaces.

For these blocks with less than 12 spaces I believe it would be more equitable to limit all individual parklet permits to two spaces but allow businesses to work together to request a joint permit or two separate permits over time to share a larger parklet. This could result in one shared 4 space parklet shared by two businesses, that would be more efficient than two separate parklets of 3 and 2 spaces respectively.

Efficiency would come from having one less set of 2-foot and 1-foot setbacks from parking spaces when two parklets are combined. Additional efficiency would come from less exterior structures having to be built.

Summary

Request for Clarification:

- What does "block" refer to? Parking on the one block face, parking on both sides of the street, or the parking on all four streets that define a block.

Recommended additions:

- Limit individual permits to 2 spaces per parklet on blocks with 12 or less parking spaces.
- Allow businesses to apply jointly or separately over time to create a larger shared parklet, limited to two spaces per business in the agreement.

I believe these changes would create a more equitable program, potentially allow more parking spaces to remain and encourage our business to work together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

John Miki

From:

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:07 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear City Council and Staff -

Thank you for your leadership during this challenging time. When the pandemic started, I was very concerned that Solano Ave would take a major hit and that scores of businesses would close -- particularly restaurants. I'm thrilled that Solano Avenue is still a vibrant shopping and eating corridor. One of the things that brings me joy is walking around and seeing people eating outside -- and seeing the creatively decorated parklets. The lights at night are so welcoming.

Our family hasn't eaten inside a restaurant since before the pandemic and we do not see a time when we'd begin to do so again, given COVID rates. Keeping outdoor eating possible at the biggest scale possible is critically important for the vitality of the avenue, for health and safety, and for financial viability of the restaurants. Please keep the parklets going. If you can, please provide financial support to the restaurants that are using them. The parklets add great character and I hope we can both sustain current parklets and add new ones.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Andrea Venezia
Albany resident

From:

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:29 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Support permanent parklets for Albany restaurants

Dear Albany city council,

I am writing to express support for the parklets. Please find a way to keep them permanently. And **without** great, undue, prohibitive costs to the restaurants and businesses!! I would gladly support city tax dollars going to finance the project. It's the one good thing that has come out of the pandemic: our outside life, which we are fortunate our climate allows year round, is much enhanced by these parklets. They're festive, they make strolling safer, and they're great for the businesses. A win-win!!

Thank you,

Andrea Segall

Albany homeowner and resident for 37 years

From:
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:13 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Parklets and Outdoor Dining

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for considering making Albany parklets and outdoor dining permanent. I first started thinking about this over 10 years ago while walking my children to Cornell school. I imagined how wonderful it would be if Solano was closed to traffic for at least a few blocks around Cornell and the surrounding cafes, shops and restaurants. Giving it a true pedestrian friendly, town square sort of vibe.

While I still fantasize about that vision, I think the parklets are the closest we'll get to this (at least in the foreseeable future) and I'm so happy that this may be a permanent site on Solano. Seeing people relax and enjoy life rather than just hustling to get to their next destination is such a positive force for our community. I especially enjoy the parklets that are enhanced with plants, green-up Albany! I think it's important to support our local businesses in any way we can to make this happen.

Please save our parklets.

Jackie Buchan

From:
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:38 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear Albany City Council and Staff,

My name is Michael Gill. I'm a resident of North Berkeley, but frequent many Albany businesses, as they are actually much closer to me than downtown Berkeley. I often walk or bike to Solano.

I understand that an item will be on the agenda of the upcoming September 19th Council meeting to discuss the permanent approval of parklet permitting currently used by restaurants for outdoor dining as they have been during the pandemic. In my view, these parklets that offer outdoor dining opportunities have obviously saved many businesses from closing. While there may be some parking taken on Solano, the life of these businesses should take priority over a few parking spaces. In addition to allowing businesses to survive, when done to code, they safely slow traffic, they allow residents to socialize safely with outdoor dining, and they offer the opportunity to spend money in your town (and generate taxes). Sounds like everyone wins to me! If people cannot walk or bike to Solano, parking is available literally a short walk in any direction from Solano. It's never that far away.

Solano Avenue is the heart and soul of your town. These parklets have allowed some businesses to sustain themselves during the pandemic and added vibrancy to the street. Even though the pandemic appears to be subsiding, why not continue this vibrancy? The parklets are one of a few positive things that have come out of this pandemic. It's clear that they have been successfully used by many other cities to adapt to the pandemic. Why not in Albany? Please vote to permanently approve parklets on Solano.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Gill
1206 Neilson Street
Berkeley

From:
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 3:26 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: support for permanent parklets

Dear Council

As a neighbor near Solano I strongly support the parklets. I am Covid cautious and thrilled to be able to dine outside in the street seating. The parklets help all the rest of Solano feel alive.

Thanks
Merry Selk
1016 Evelyn Albany

merryselk@gmail.com

From:
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:25 PM
To: citycouncil <
Subject: Parklet support

Hello,

I am an Albany resident and absolutely support the parklets. I've lived in Albany almost all my life and before the pandemic complained that there were not enough outdoor dining options in Albany. I couldn't be happier that we can enjoy dining outside in our great weather here. I have young kids and am more comfortable eating with them outside than in a restaurant. I think they make Solano more attractive and modern. Albany is so walkable that the decrease in parking spots has not affected me at all.

I think restaurants should be given a small stipend to make their parklet options more attractive as it's clear some have more money than others.

Thank you for reading,
Lydia

From:**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2022 9:18 PM**To:** citycouncil**Subject:** Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear Albany City Council,

I would like to express my complete support for restaurants and cafes along Solano Avenue to maintain parklets for outdoor dining. As I have stated in my previous email I am an Albany home owner and I think the parklets look very European and really raise the standards of Solano Avenue to an elegant degree. We love the beauty they bring to the street with plants and lighting in the evening. It is even fun to just walk by the parklets at night and enjoy the "party in the streets."

I would also like to encourage you not to charge \$750 per parking space for the parklets along with a \$222 application fee. Our restaurants along Solano Avenue have been hard hit by Covid. These fees see way too high and could really impact how much money the restaurants spend on beautifying the parklets. I think they should have the chance to not pay a fee and instead put the money into the gorgeous parklet they will build or maintain. Please don't charge such a high fee.

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Musically,
Jingle Jeff

- - - - -
Jeffrey L. Luna-Sparks, M.M.Ed./Kodaly & Orff Level II
Jingle Jamboree Music Studio
1016 Talbot Avenue / Albany, CA 94706
(510) 334-8851 (Text or Talk)

- www.jinglejamboree.com
- <http://jinglejamboree.blogspot.com/> (View updated schedules & openings)

Director

- Jingle Jamboree Music
- Music Club Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Ocean View Elementary School Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade Classroom Music
- Cornell Elementary School TK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade

Classroom Music

- Director of Elementary Choir for 4th & 5th Grade at Cornell, Marin and Ocean View Elementary Schools

Register links:

For Music **Camp & Music Club**:

<http://www.jinglejamboree.com/camp/>

From:

Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:34 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Permanent In Street Parklet Program

To whom it may concern!

My name is Huyen Thanh Tra (cathy), I am the owner's Kim's Cafe & Sandwiches location on 1309 solano ave, I am in business for 12 years and women own business, also I am resident in albany for 35 years plus.

i am interesting about In Street Parklet, because helping alot for my business, in the past not much people know about my store until we had out door street eating - also alot people from other town know where is Albany, Ca - according to my customers they past by alot on san pablo avenue, but they think we are in berkeley not in albany.

I am support In Street Parklet Program

best reagard

thanh huyen Tra (cathy)

owner's Kim's Cafe & Sandwiches

From:

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 9:02 AM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear Albany City Council,

I write as a former Albany resident who has visited Albany several times since the pandemic started.

Each time, I was blown away by the amazing changes to Solano Ave. brought about primarily by the expansion of parklets offering safe, pleasant outdoor dining. Solano was bustling with more activity than I ever remember seeing when I lived there and it was great to feel safe meeting and dining outside with dear friends. It was so much fun seeing the individual and creative approaches that many restaurants have already taken with their outdoor spaces and I can't wait to see how the settings have evolved when I visit next time.

Solano also felt much safer as someone walking, since there were fewer drivers making illegal turns into parking spots and more people walking and on the avenue in general, raising driver awareness to look for people.

I hope that instead of making it overly costly or burdensome for the small business owners along Solano, you will instead look for ways to support them and make even further improvements to the dining spaces and parklets possible. In fact, I think you should continue to evaluate this corridor and look at going a step further and evaluate options to convert Solano into a primarily people-centered space by eliminating non-local through traffic entirely. It would be a remarkable space for a people and transit-centered space, while still facilitating local access for those who need it, such as people with diverse mobility needs. Just think how much quieter, relaxing, and less polluted it would be without all the through traffic of unnecessary trips.

While initially a response to the pandemic, they remain a fabulous addition of outdoor patio space to enjoy Solano, spend time with loved ones, and support local businesses, all while enjoying the Bay Area's notoriously beautiful weather.

Overall, I couldn't be more supportive of these changes and I wish my own current city (St. Paul, MN) would embrace more of the same ideas!

Please support making the in-street, outdoor dining changes permanent!

Zack Mensinger

From:
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 10:31 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Please keep Solano Avenueparklets

Dear Council Members,
I love the transformation of Solano Avenue that has taken place since restaurants were permitted to install parklets for outdoor dining.
The parklets have greatly enhanced Solano Avenue as a daily community gathering place.
Please keep the parklets as a permanent feature of our community!
Best wishes,
Ellen Hershey
515 Spokane Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

Sent from my iPad

From:

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 4:52 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Item 10-1, In-street parklet program

Dear Commission,

I've been an Albany resident for over 13 years. I am writing to express my strong support for continuing in-street outdoor dining and parklets along Solano Ave. I want to support and to enjoy our town's restaurants, and feel much safer dining outside due to virus concerns as well as enjoying the outdoor ambience. Take-out meals are no substitute for my family as they lack the social aspect of dining out and generate a large amount of packaging waste, much of which is neither compostable or recyclable. We will patronize our local Solano Ave. restaurants more often if outdoor dining is available.

I think outside dining has made Solano Ave more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly with slower traffic. I realize that some parking spots have been taken by the parklets and outdoor dining. However, Solano Ave is very easily accessible by walking, biking or public transit. Fewer parking spaces on Solano Ave will, I think, encourage people to use transportation other than single family cars -- an important action item in our city's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Approximately 56% of our city's emissions in 2018 were from transportation according to our climate report. All city decisions should be guided by our Climate Action Plan if we are going to attain the goal of zero emissions by 2045.

I feel that the proposed \$750 per parking space would be an excessive burden on businesses, and I support a proposal that the city assist businesses with funds to comply with the new parklet regulations. I oppose the 2 parking space limit recommended by the Economic Development Committee as inadequate.

Thank you.

Lucinda Young
726 Pomona Ave

From:

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:21 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Re: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Hi again -

I just noticed that the proposed plan charges \$750 per space with a \$222 permitting fee. Could someone please share the rationale for the \$750 per space charge, given that these are unmetered spaces? This seems like a hardship for restaurants that are the lifeblood of our shopping district (and that are likely facing reduced revenues due to the ongoing pandemic) — and unnecessary, since there's no need for reimbursement to the city (since the spots aren't metered). Is the city incurring costs that require reimbursement beyond the permitting fee amount?

Thanks,

Andrea

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:06 PM Andrea Venezia <andrea.venezia@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council and Staff -

Thank you for your leadership during this challenging time. When the pandemic started, I was very concerned that Solano Ave would take a major hit and that scores of businesses would close -- particularly restaurants. I'm thrilled that Solano Avenue is still a vibrant shopping and eating corridor. One of the things that brings me joy is walking around and seeing people eating outside - and seeing the creatively decorated parklets. The lights at night are so welcoming.

Our family hasn't eaten inside a restaurant since before the pandemic and we do not see a time when we'd begin to do so again, given COVID rates. Keeping outdoor eating possible at the biggest scale possible is critically important for the vitality of the avenue, for health and safety, and for financial viability of the restaurants. Please keep the parklets going. If you can, please provide financial support to the restaurants that are using them. The parklets add great character and I hope we can both sustain current parklets and add new ones.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Andrea Venezia
Albany resident

From:

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 7:05 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear City Council,

I'm a long-time Albany resident and am writing to encourage you to allow the outdoor dining & parklets on Solano Avenue to continue. I have really enjoyed the change in Solano Ave and it certainly has led me to dine out more often than I otherwise would have. It reminds me of the restaurant districts in many European cities, and it makes Solano Ave more vibrant and more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, which is the direction our city needs to move in. I support reasonable regulations designed to assure the safety of outdoor dining. However, our small Albany businesses have struggled during the pandemic so I would like to see the city assist them in financing the necessary upgrades. I support the staff's recommendation to make funds remaining from the American Rescue Plan Act available to businesses for this purpose. The proposal that businesses pay \$750 per parking space seems excessive. The city does not charge for parking so there is no loss of revenue to the city for the parking spaces used for parklets. In fact, the parklets generate more business for the restaurants which translates to more tax revenue to the City. I also disagree with the recommendation of the Economic Dev Comm that no more than 2 parking spaces can be used. Two spaces for most restaurants is not sufficient outdoor dining space.

Thanks for taking this into consideration in your decision.

David Wemmer

726 Pomona Ave

From:

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 10:33 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Support for Albany parklets

I am writing to express my support for making the Albany parklets/outdoor dining spaces permanent. In addition to being a lifeline to many of the restaurants along Solano Avenue, the parklets add energy, vitality, and a sense of community to our main business district. I commute to San Francisco three days each week. On these days, I get off my bus on Pierce St. and walk east on Solano to Key Route. I love seeing people out enjoying themselves, socializing and sharing a meal, and I enjoy using these outdoor spaces when I dine out. But more importantly, I believe the parklets are allowing some businesses to survive. Although life is beginning to return to "normal," there are still many people who are uncomfortable dining indoors, and without the parklets, they would likely not patronize the Solano Avenue restaurants. A number of Albany businesses have closed over the past couple of years - I would hate to see more empty storefronts. The city should be working to help our small businesses survive and thrive.

It is my understanding that there may be a \$750 charge imposed on businesses for each parking space converted to a parklet. I'm puzzled by this charge - since Albany parking is not metered, there is no loss of revenue to the city for giving up these parking spaces. Why impose an additional hardship on businesses that are still trying to recover from the impact of the pandemic?

The parklets are one of the few good things that have come from the pandemic - please let them stay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Hesdorfer
837 Key Route Blvd.

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:44 AM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Parcklet

Dear city council members and staff,

My name is Izat Eliyan. I am one of the owners of Zaytoon restaurant on Solano. I am writing this letter to first thank you for working with us during the difficult past two years and to encourage everyone to work toward making the parklets permanent feature on Solano ave. During Covid the parklet was a life line for our restaurant. It helped us survive the pandemic. Our parklet is very popular with our guests and we feel it is adding a beautiful new characteristic to Solano ave. In terms of the parking concerns, we are fortunate to have a small parking area behind our restaurant which provides up to 7 parking spots for our staff . We also encourage our staff to use public transportation and other means of transportation. I

Izat Eliyan

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:28 AM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment re. City Council Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program - meeting Monday September 19, 2022

To City Council and Staff:

"A rising tide lifts all boats." No doubt you've heard that saying before, and it's especially appropriate when looking at what the Parklet program has done for Albany's business district. What began as a mode of survival during the Covid Pandemic, outdoor dining has transformed Solano Avenue into a bustling, vibrant, walkable district in which residents and visitors alike want to spend both time and money.

As supporters of Albany businesses through the pandemic over the past two and a half years, we are excited to see the Parklet program earn a more permanent status.

The Transportation Commission, whose expertise is in the areas of transportation policy and planning & design on City owned right-of-ways, recommended that the Council approve the parklet program guidelines AS SHOWN WITH THE EXCLUSION OF A LIMIT TO TWO PARKING SPACES for parklet applications on a block that already has parklets utilizing 40% or more of the previously available vehicle parking spaces. That limit is shown in the Draft Guidelines, but since all surveys and the "eye-test" have shown that there is plenty of parking on side streets and San Pablo Avenue, that restriction should be struck - Staff Discretion is sufficient.

Parklets bring more than just a vibrant and lively atmosphere – they bring business. Survey results show that parklets are a net positive for our community. The numbers show overwhelming support among the community and businesses: 88% of the Community members surveyed are either in "Strong Support" or "Support" of the parklets. 73% of all businesses surveyed favor the parklets. In perhaps the most salient figures showing the economic impact of outdoor dining, **57.12% of people spend more time and/or money on Solano Avenue than they had previously, and 34.29% report no change – 90% of people spend as much or more money on Solano Avenue since the Parklets have been a fixture! It's clear that people who may plan to have lunch outside will stay, stroll, and spend their dollars at other businesses**

Because of this, 59% of Solano businesses; including **57% of non-restaurants, support a permanent outdoor dining program. That's a great reflection of the lively ambiance and economic positive that the parklets bring to the business district.**

In the past, City Council has granted various one-day events funds to help them with expenses. Here is an opportunity for your body to financially impact the Albany economy by investing in the lifeblood of our business district, its restaurants. The required improvements will require small, family-owned businesses to spend a fair amount more money on construction and materials which many of them already have done just to survive the pandemic. We hope that the City will support Parklet construction and improvements financially with subsidies or stipends from its Discretionary Funds or ARPA Funds. Even better, waive the costly \$750 per parking space fee, since unlike neighboring Berkeley, our City doesn't charge for parking and every meal served outdoors provides Albany with revenue. This use of the public right-of-way benefits the entire community.

Let's take this positive, extend it, and make compliance and safety less expensive for these family owned businesses who have helped make our community what it is today.

Sincerely,
Vonnie Davidson (Ocean View Brew Works) & Amy Smolens
Albany Inside Out



From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:00 AM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: in favor of parklets

Parklets have been a wonderful addition to Albany's commercial districts.

I urge the city to continue to allow their installation.

I'm in favor of design and safety standards, accessibility, regular maintenance, removal in case of lack of use, and traffic slowing on Solano.

Peter Goodman
Curtis Street
Albany

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Peter Goodman

<http://www.cafepress.com/petesproducts>

<http://www.twitter.com/petergoodman>

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:12 AM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Extension of parklets on Solan Ave.

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Please accept my feedback regarding outdoor dining in Albany, specifically along Solano Ave.

Since the Pandemic, I have not dined indoors at all. I appreciate that most people here are vaccinated and mask wearing is encouraged but for me, it is still too much of a risk. For this reason and many more, I strongly support outdoor dining via parklets, patios, curbside tables, and the like.

Driving down Solano has always been a bit nerve wracking. I ride my bike around Albany and have always avoided Solano as much as possible. But since the creation of outdoor dining spaces, it actually feels a lot better. Traffic is much slower and after 18 months of the Pandemic, I think many drivers have been more respectful driving on Solano than they used to be. I know, isn't that amazing! Personally, I don't mind driving on Solano so much now because traffic has slowed down, there are so many pedestrians and people milling about, I find it enjoyable to go super slow and allow pedestrian traffic and people enjoying themselves having a drink or a bite without fear of someone speeding. There are so many small restaurants and cafes on Solano that would not have survived the Pandemic had it not been for outdoor dining spots. Not to mention other small businesses that need our support; pet grooming, stores for children's supplies, jewelry and shoe shops. I'm sure you want to support small business; that's part of what makes Albany special - not so much corporate business, but small businesses; ice cream carts, people drinking coffee, having a cocktail, and enjoying food that by the way, is often made by immigrants. Surely we want to support people who have worked to achieve the American dream and have their own business. I know I do.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter and I welcome you to contact me if necessary.

Very truly yours,

Suzi Sholin
Albany resident
I ♥ Albany

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:30 AM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Parklets.

To whom it may concern ,

As an Albany resident I'm very much in favor of the parklets on Solano . It gives the street charm and personality . Since Albany lacks any real downtown or plaza the strip of Solano is an important landmark that benefits from it's original flare and makes it a destination from other areas . I drive down and shop on Solano all the time and never once have I had difficulty finding a parking spot if that is the opposing argument for eliminating the parklets. Please keep the parklets!! It's the best idea that came from our Covid experience! Thank you. Best Regards. Amy St George

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:01 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear Council,

I live one block from Solano Ave. and my office is on Solano Ave between Talbot and Cornell.

I have enjoyed using the parklets on a very regular basis instead of eating inside on Solano Ave. This program has kept me eating out in Albany rather than going to nearby cities. I prefer to eat outside for both health and social reasons. Almost every time I do, I see a neighbor, colleague, or friend that I can acknowledge and engage with as they walk by. Sometimes they sit and join me for a meal or coffee. These parklets are a great asset to our community and increase the quality of life in Albany.

Please help continue and improve the parklet program.

I agree that there should be a fee for the exclusive use of a public parking space by a business. The right amount will not create a disincentive for a business to upgrade its existing facility while providing a safer and more accessible space for all diners and neighbors. Also, the right fee will help the business plan and utilize the spaces most efficiently while not cutting into their profits too much. I do not know what the right amount is. I am not sure when I will be comfortable eating in a crowded restaurant again. But even when I do, I will still use the outside dining areas as much as possible.

Thanks,

Francesco Papalia
800 Block Key Route Blvd.

From:**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 12:07 PM**To:** citycouncil**Subject:** Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Attn: Albany City Council

My husband and I are offering 100 percent support for keeping outdoor dining and parklets long term on Solano Ave. By frequenting the outdoor restaurants on Solano Avenue, we have had the opportunity to interact with our neighbors and friends in a safe and congenial environment, saving many of us from the stress brought on by the extended isolation of the pandemic.

More importantly, the restaurants have been able to stay in business as a result of outdoor dining options. How many might have closed without those options?

As a result of the parklets and the resulting increased pedestrian traffic, other Solano Ave. businesses have also been able to stay afloat during these difficult times.

Albany has a unique and diverse collection of family-owned and run restaurants and we need to continue to support them. We strongly urge the City Council to approve a long-term plan to support, perhaps with subsidies or stipends, outdoor dining and parklets.

Joan Gallagher
William Hawk

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:07 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: In-Street Parklet Program

Dear City Council,

We would like to add our comments concerning the "In-Street Parklet Program" prior to Council review this evening. We have found the existing parklets to be an absolute delight and very much enjoy the opportunity they provide for outdoor dining. We are in full agreement with the In-Street Parklet Program Staff recommendation that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2022101 which will establish parklet program guidelines. Further, it makes sense that an annual fee for parklets be incorporated into a future fee schedule and appropriate enforcement mechanisms be provided to staff to assist in the ongoing management of the program.

Again, while the parklets were initially created primarily as a response to the COVID-19 emergency, they have matured into a real community asset that has truly enhanced the Solano Avenue dining experience. We fully support their continued development.

Best Regards,

Amy St. George and Gary Kritikos

1065 Peralta Avenue

Albany, CA 94706

510-220-4407 / 510-289-5537 (M)

stgeorgeamy@ yahoo.com / kritiga@pacbell.net email

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:45 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear city council,

We are writing to respectfully request that outdoor parklets for restaurants in Solano Avenue be made permanent. As the pandemic changed everything for businesses, it is crucial that the city helps us remain open in Solano for many more years to come. What we noticed while having outdoor space for customers is that they feel more safe and comfortable out in the open versus dining inside of the restaurant. We have had times when the entire restaurant inside was empty but the seats that we have outside were full. Many customers waited upwards to 25 mins to stay outside while we were empty indoors. We believe the outdoor space provides a safe barrier for customers who are not yet ready to dine indoors, and it contributes to the vitality of Solano Avenue. There is ample parking on the side of the street, and many of our customers bike and walk to our restaurant. We require a minimum of three parking spaces to keep our business afloat. Without the parking outlets we would not have been able to stay open. Just on our block we have four bike racks which gives the customers an easy way to come to our restaurant so there shouldn't be any parking problems as we have observed the customers arriving at our business. We hope that the decision that the city makes tonight can help us keep our business running for many more years to come. Other cities like Oakland have made outdoor dining more accessible to restaurants to keep business in their city survive, we hope our city can do the same for us. Thank you.

sincerely,

Everest Kitchen Family

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:59 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear Committee,

This is Hamed Mohammadbagher, the manager of Barneys Hamburger in Solano avenue, we built a parklet when Covid hit us and it has been a huge part of our restaurant since then and honestly this parklet was a main reason we were able to survive from the Covid sales drop.

Thank you for considering to make it permanent since all my costumers love it and they prefer to seat there first but please pay more attention to the costs that you are going to ask for registration and renewal, I have 3 space for my parklet and with \$750 per space , I should pay \$2250 per year on top of my registration fee just to keep my parklet which is a lot for me, remember that we did not receive any help from city or anywhere else for the cost of building the parklet and we have not recovered from it yet.

I just wanted you to know my input regarding this matter.

Best regards

Hamed Mohammadbagher

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BARNEYS SOLANO

1591 Solano Ave,

Berkeley, CA 94707

[Tel:\(510\)526-8185](tel:(510)526-8185)

www.Barneyshamburgers.com

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 2:37 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: public comment on Item 10-1 In-Street Parklet Program

I am writing in favor of preserving our parklets on Solano Ave in such a way that restaurants find the use of the space not too onerous or expensive. My family and I love the changes to the street, appreciate the option to use the outdoor space ourselves and love seeing friends, neighbors and others enjoying themselves at the outdoor accommodations. In the past 2 years we have had visitors from France and Switzerland who are shocked to find this is all new, since COVID.

Bryan Marten

Albany Resident

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 3:22 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Outdoor Parklets

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to support continuation of the current Outdoor Dining parklets. I believe the parklets are valuable additions to our community because:

1. They cause drivers to slow down and pay more attention while traversing Solano Ave., calming traffic.
2. They create a visible community which helps to deter crime.
3. They help create stronger community bonds amongst neighbors.
4. They help local businesses survive and flourish.
5. They enhance property values for homeowners that are living in a vibrant City.
6. They provide dining options for those with auto-immune disorders (like me) and their friends.

Please consider the value these parklets add to Albany and provide for their continued existence.

Linda Berland

techmomster@gmail.com

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 3:51 PM

To: citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Dear City Council,

My name is Joe Phoonpirom and I am the owner of Bua Luang.

From my point of view :

Parking location.

I wish that the transportation commission should allow more than 40% of parking spaces because all installation codes make it really difficult to set up ADA access and have the space between the tables available.

There is plenty of parking space on the street side and the customer never seems to have any problem finding parking, especially in the evening because our block is next to the Albany elementary school which is where I assume that customers could park their vehicles opposite from the residential side. Along our blocks there are 7 bike racks available and some customers walking from their houses as well.

People still feel more comfortable eating outside than inside since the pandemic and part of those income from outside dining help us to take care of our staff and survive these days. More positive things are drawing more people to the community and generating more tax revenue to the City as well.

Financially.

City should help financially or grant to the business in order to reduce the cost of fee & permit, construction costs, materials installation and insurance that are required.

Extend the time for transitioning.

In case of building the new construction after getting approval from the City during or prior to the end of March, 2023 that can be extended for another 3 months if applicable.

Finally, thank you the City of Albany for an opportunity to let us continue having an outside dining.

Best regards,

Joe Phoonpirom

--

Bua Luang

1166 Solano Ave. Albany, CA 94706

Ph.510.527.8288

Cell.510.856.8857

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 4:19 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Parklet initiative

Dear Albany City Council,

My business is located at 1365 Solano Avenue, next to Chez Mansour. I wanted to express that even though it is parking spots in front of my building and business that are impacted, I fully support the use of these parking spaces for their current purpose. The one good thing that seems to have come out of this terrible pandemic is the expansion of outdoor eating and particularly on Solano Avenue, how it has improved the community and liveliness of the area in a very positive way.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions, but as a business owner in Albany and on this street, I think it is just a wonderful thing for our community and my staff and clients have been able to easily find parking a reasonable distance, even without the use of these spots right in front of our premises.

On a personal note, since starting a liaison office in Barcelona in 2011, I have traveled to Spain and Europe very frequently and have always envied them before now for their outdoor culture. It's great to see it here in Albany!

Best regards,

Josh

Joshua M. Surowitz, Surowitz Immigration, PC

1365 Solano Ave., Albany, CA 94706

Tel: +1 510 558 1230 Fax: +1 510 558 0851

www.surowitz.com

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 4:27 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

Hello City Council,

We at Morningtide on Cornell Avenue would like to express our strong continued support for outdoor dining and the in-street parklet program. Not only has this increased the vitality of Solano Avenue in all aspects, it has helped our small business thrive by increasing foot traffic and bringing more people out and about in our wonderful community. As parents with our own families, we have enjoyed the option of outdoor dining during the pandemic and would love to continue supporting the small businesses/restaurants that have worked so hard to get through during tough times. We support everything that brings the community out and would love to see the in-street parklet program continue.

Warmly,
Lisa + Lisa
Morningtide

Morningtide

morningtideshop.com

847 Cornell Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

@morningtide.shop [instagram](#) / [pinterest](#) / [twitter](#)

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 5:24 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Solano Parklets

Hi

I am writing in support of the restaurant parklets on Solano. They bring a vibrancy to the neighborhood and increased business to the city. While it initially benefits restaurants, it also benefits other businesses with increased foot traffic. I sincerely hope that Albany continues to support the parklet program

I have heard concerns about the parking spaces that are taken. I really hope that the city will look at alternatives to parking on Solano as an offset. There are many side streets that usually have parking available. There are also smaller off Solano lots that could be utilized. The parking issue is such a small part that is completely outweighed by the benefit of the parklets.

Thank you

Linda Carlton

805 Key Route Blvd,

From:

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:28 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Please remove high fees for Parkletts

Dear City Council,

Just to repeat myself. Please lower the cost of the Parklett fees. Let's support our cafes and restaurants and help them in this moment of great need. We don't want to lose anymore restaurants or cafes in Albany.

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Musically,
Jingle Jeff

- - - - -
Jeffrey L. Luna-Sparks, M.M.Ed./Kodaly & Orff Level II

Jingle Jamboree Music Studio

1016 Talbot Avenue / Albany, CA 94706

(510) 334-8851 (Text or Talk)

www.jinglejamboree.com

<http://jinglejamboree.blogspot.com/> (View updated schedules & openings)

Director

Jingle Jamboree Music

Music Club Tuesdays & Thursdays

Ocean View Elementary School Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade

Classroom Music

Cornell Elementary School TK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Classroom
Music

Director of Elementary Choir for 4th & 5th Grade at Cornell, Marin and Ocean
View Elementary Schools

Register links:

For Music **Camp & Music Club:**

<http://www.jinglejamboree.com/camp/>

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:18 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Parklets and Solano Ave

Hi All -

Just sending an email to support the vibrant street life on Solano Ave. Parklets rock. Please expand them.

Also: I wonder if we can do what SF has done with The Great Highway: close Solano Ave sat and Sunday. Closing the street completely to cars would increase a culture of walking, build community and help small business. Let's do it.

For council members who have not witnessed the Great Highway walking scene (and Valencia street in sf), I highly recommend a trip to SF. We could also be quite forward thinking.

We have Marin Ave for through traffic.

Joanna Manqueros
1067 Evelyn Ave
Home owner since 1998

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:40 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Albany parklets

Hi

I am writing in support of the restaurant parklets on Solano. They bring a vibrancy to the neighborhood and increased business to the city. While it initially benefits restaurants, it also benefits other businesses with increased foot traffic. I sincerely hope that Albany continues to support the parklet program

I have heard concerns about the parking spaces that are taken. I really hope that the city will look at alternatives to parking on Solano as an offset. There are many side streets that usually have parking available. There are also smaller off Solano lots that could be utilized. The parking issue is such a small part that is completely outweighed by the benefit of the parklets.

Thank you

Brad Carlton

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 1:57 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Public Comment on Item 10-1, In-Street Parklet Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in favor of the Albany Parklets. I like being able to sit outside and enjoy my lunch or dinner. I also think City of Albany should subsidize or stipend from the Discretionary Finds as these parklets bring in more dinners and more revenue. I am an Albany resident.

Thank you,
Andrea

--

Andrea Richerson

acricherson@gmail.com