

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

---

**From:** Neil Leventhal <NL@LMA-web.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:21 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** tmirzakhani@citymb.gov; Jaehee Yoon  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 12 - Outdoor Dining Recommendations - OPPOSE

**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I certainly understand and appreciate the efforts of Task Force members and staff who have dedicated significant time and effort on this subject to date. Having attended a number of the meetings personally, it is clear that the complexity of the issues is challenging.

However, the Task Force deliberations and recommendations appear to go beyond their scope, and to interpret their assignment to be how to implement expanded outdoor dining, rather than a reasoned consideration of whether to do so.

We can identify and articulate many concerns about the impact, cost, methodology, and limited resident representation, but, most critically, making appropriate, actionable recommendations should require much more information and insight - like the insignificant contribution of downtown restaurant to the city revenue (which appears to be less than 1%, without consideration of the associated costs), or some idea of the enormous costs and disruption that would likely result from the recommendations.

All of this seeks to solve a problem we don't have - restaurants are prospering, adding locations, and others are in line hoping to open here. There are many opportunities for outdoor dining, from El Sombrero to the Kettle to Hook and Plow, not to mention Manhattan Village Mall.

The Task Force members themselves identified and acknowledged some of the current issues, including trash, dirty sidewalks, truck deliveries, noise, traffic and vermin - but the recommendations all point to expansion, with no effective mitigation or solutions, let alone addressing the intensification of those issues.

Expanded and extended amplified outdoor music is literally rubbing salt in the wound - it is difficult understand how that could ever become a part of the conversation.

It is the small town, village character and balance that already makes Manhattan Beach a uniquely appealing place to live and dine. Please continue your leadership and stewardship to continue to protect this remarkable place, and reject or redirect the Task Force recommendations.

Thank you.

Neil Leventhal  
128 13th St.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

---

**From:** Theresa Wood <theresawood1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 1:51 PM  
**To:** List - City Council; tmirzakhaniaan@citymb.gov; Jaehee Yoon; Bruce Moe; Liza Tamura, MMC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item #12 TONIGHT, Outdoor Dining

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Franklin and Council Members,

I am a 20-year Manhattan Beach resident living on 11th Street in the hill section. I have never written to the city council before. However, I am so distressed by the proposed changes to our city suggested by the Outdoor Dining Task Force that I felt compelled to write to you.

This proposal is going to forever change the character of Manhattan Beach. I decided to move here because it is a wonderful place to raise children due to our great schools, family atmosphere, and the small town feel of Manhattan Beach. Having restaurants with permanent outdoor dining, playing music, and serving alcohol and on walk streets is a terrible idea. If people want this type of dining experience, they can go to Hermosa. When I go to Hermosa, I see loud outdoor dining establishments blasting music with drunk people staggering all over the place.

Please do not turn Manhattan Beach to turn into Hermosa Beach.

Sincerely,

Theresa Wood

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

---

**From:** Carol Perrin <cplaw28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:07 PM  
**To:** List - City Council; tmirzakhani@citymb.gov; Jaehee Yoon  
**Cc:** Bruce Moe; Liza Tamura, MMC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose - Agenda Item #12 - Outdoor Dining Task Force

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Franklin and Council Members.

What started out as a question of **WHETHER** there should be a new permanent outdoor dining plan in our small town downtown requiring changing the law and changing the character of Manhattan Beach, **turned into HOW** to have permanent outdoor dining by the Outdoor Dining Task Force, since the staff insisted “HOW” was their mandate from the City Council. So all discussion was colored by this supposed mandate.

**Fix something that's not broken?** Downtown Manhattan Beach is thriving, so much so you have to plan ahead to get a reservation in most restaurants. And **outdoor dining is already plentiful** - The Kettle, El Sombrero, Hennessey's, Rockefeller's, Esperanza and the new Hook and Plow all have outdoor dining within their footprint. And our beautiful revitalized Manhattan Beach mall adds to this smorgasbord of existing outdoor restaurant seating.

The **results of the Target Survey** conducted by the Task Force are clear and are **indisputably against these new proposals**. Even the survey conducted at the Hometown Fair, which included responses by anyone attending the Fair (not necessarily residents) identified numerous concerns within the responses.

The **charm of downtown MB** has attracted businesses, restaurants and residents alike, with restaurants currently booming within the status quo. It is a large component of what keeps our **property values high** and

**our schools great. Commercial intrusion on walk street corners, outdoor music changing our downtown into even more of a bar scene, and prioritizing visitors who don't have to live with the noise, trash, density, lack of parking, crime, congestion and COST of paying for all this, is simply nuts.**

I implore our City Council to lead and maintain the character of our small town downtown and the quality of life for all residents, and with **sensitivity** to the large number of our downtown residents (whose mixed use is part of the charm) and who moved into downtown protected by the ordinances passed years ago that **keeps our town the jewel that it is.**

Thank you for your consideration,  
Carol Perrin

--

Carol Perrin  
[cplaw28@gmail.com](mailto:cplaw28@gmail.com)

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

---

**From:** Mia Johansson <miajohansson03@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:08 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Outdoor Dining Concerns from Walk Street Resident next to Tabula Rasa and Slay Italian

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Forwarding my message about outdoor dining to City Council as well.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mia Johansson <miajohansson03@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 11:16 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Outdoor Dining Concerns from Walk Street Resident next to Tabula Rasa and Slay Italian  
**To:** <[outdoordining@manhattanbeach.gov](mailto:outdoordining@manhattanbeach.gov)>

Dear City Council Members,

I am following up about my previous email from November. I am deeply concerned about the push for outdoor dining that pushes into our neighborhoods and I am extremely disappointed and disheartened that the push by business owners is being weighed more heavily than the opinion of residents whose everyday livelihoods will be affected by this.

The peace and quiet we get in Manhattan Beach just a couple houses away from the main street will be taken away if outdoor dining expands. There will be people at restaurants eating right next to our outdoor patio where we enjoy spending our evenings. Parking, traffic, and noise will become even more of a problem. I live right next to Tabula Rasa and do not want any restaurants expanding their dining areas to this spot. I will be very loud and insistent that this does not happen and so will my neighbors.

Please re-read my previous email. All my concerns are very much still the same and I hope that you weigh them equally against the very loud business owners who are pushing for more customers at the expense of residents. Thank you.

Best Regards,  
Mia Johansson

124 10th street, Manhattan Beach, Unit #3 Corner of Tabula Rasa and diagonal from Slay Italian

On Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 10:43 AM Mia Johansson <[miajohansson03@gmail.com](mailto:miajohansson03@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dear City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Mia Johansson and I am a resident living on a walk street adjacent to the corner of Tabula Rasa, diagonally across from Slay Italian. I am writing to express my urgent concerns about the proposed outdoor dining areas, some of which are slated to be situated right next to our patio on 124 10th street, where we frequently spend time outdoors.

The walk streets, carefully tended by residents, are vital green spaces preserving Manhattan Beach's

tranquility; converting them to dining areas risks losing the area's unique charm, replacing peace with chaos.

Maintaining these walk streets as public seating areas and green spaces not only sustains the downtown ambiance but also crucially separates the bustling activities from the peaceful residential zones. Removing this separation would severely change the feeling from living in a peaceful suburban neighborhood, to being right outside of a busy restaurant. I would be deeply upset if this were to occur right on our doorstep.

While the City Council listens to arguments supporting outdoor dining benefits, it's crucial to weigh the implications of restaurants like The Arthur J extending their outdoor seating to other walkstreets, particularly at Tabula Rasa, where such expansion is not practical. Given that The Arthur J is located on the other side of the block, the idea of their staff monopolizing the entire public sidewalk for food service and orders seems impractical and raises concerns about sidewalk congestion and difficulty navigating the area. Moreover, expanding these restaurants beyond their intended capacity would more than double issues such as traffic, waste, delivery trucks, and heightened noise levels. It's already hard leaving for work in the mornings because of traffic, and often, I can't turn left out of my driveway because there's a big food truck blocking me.

Restaurants in Manhattan Beach have already secured outdoor dining spaces on public sidewalks and parking areas due to COVID, and they've retained these spaces even after the pandemic has subsided. There's no legitimate justification for them to further encroach on public areas. Manhattan Beach boasts an abundance of dining choices, and the city does not need to transform into a food court.

I urge the City Council to weigh the potential consequences of compromising Manhattan Beach's distinctive beach town charm with its tranquil walk streets. There are few places in Los Angeles that offer a similar atmosphere, and it is your responsibility to act in the best interest of Manhattan Beach residents, rather than succumbing to the voices of a select few, albeit vocal, restaurant owners.

For any further inquiries, please feel free to contact me at 707-480-8180.

Best Regards,  
Mia Johansson

124 10th street, Manhattan Beach, Unit #3 Corner of Tabula Rasa and diagonal from Slay Italian

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

---

**From:** Niklas Tostar <niklasnwt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** City Clerk; List - City Council  
**Cc:** Talyn Mirzakhanian; Jaehee Yoon  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting Agenda Item 12 Outdoor Dining Task Force - Feb 20, 2024

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Franklin and City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share my concerns about the recent proposals from the Outdoor Dining Task Force. As someone who recently moved to Manhattan Beach on a downtown walk street, it has been a wonderful experience, and I am invested in maintaining the unique small-town atmosphere we all cherish.

My particular concern lies with the recommendations for 10th street encroachments on the east side. It appears that some or most residents were not informed about potential changes, particularly the proposal to convert these areas into dining spaces. This shift would lead to increased noise levels for residents and disruptions for those utilizing public transportation on 10th street.

The implications of increased outdoor dining, including amplified music and expanded sidewalks, raise questions about the associated costs, implementation timelines, and impact on parking, pedestrian/cyclist safety. Moreover, the introduction of live entertainment will compromise the peaceful coexistence we currently enjoy in our downtown area. Proposed plan raises significant issues related to sanitation and public order. Outdoor dining would undoubtedly lead to an increase in trash and attract rodents.

These restaurants were built to host a specific amount of guests, which directly correlates to the size of the staff, kitchens, trash bins, dishwashing areas, bathrooms, waiting areas, etc. - increasing the amount of guests without the increasing infrastructure to support it would be unhealthy and disadvantageous to all parties. These consequences not only threaten the well-being of our community but also compromise the cleanliness and safety of our shared spaces.

Preserving the charm and quality of life in Manhattan Beach is paramount to many of us residents. I believe in the Council's ability to carefully consider these matters and ensure that any changes align with the best interests of the community. I ask you to carefully reconsider the outdoor dining proposal on walk streets. While I understand the draw to increase dining to the few restaurants who were lucky enough to be part of this proposal and be next to a walk street, we must not sacrifice the unique qualities that set Manhattan Beach apart from other towns, which is a cherished, healthy and charming community loved by many. Everyone who has visited us in Manhattan Beach has commented how surprised they are about the atmosphere and how it's not the "Los Angeles" they were expecting.

I really appreciate your time and attention to this matter Council!

-Niklas