



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City Council Staff Report

From: City Manager

Report Type: CONSENT CALENDAR

Lead Department: Planning and Development Services

Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Report #:2304-1341

TITLE

Adopt an Ordinance and Resolution Continuing the Interim Parklet Program Until March 31, 2024; CEQA status – categorically exempt (Regulations 15301 and 15304)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance (Attachment A) and resolution (Attachment B) continuing the interim parklet program to March 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The City's interim parklet program has been in effect since the summer of 2020 during the COVID pandemic. The program is authorized by an interim ordinance and resolution, which have been extended several times since then.¹ Most recently, the City Council adopted Ordinance 5572 and Resolution 10081 in October 2022 to extend the interim parklet program through June 30, 2023.²

As the interim program continues, the City continues to develop more permanent standards for parklets. City staff across several departments, including Planning and Development Services, Public Works, and Fire, in conjunction with the City Manager's Office and the City Attorney's Office, have been working to develop these standards while continuing to manage the interim program. The City Council continues to provide substantive feedback on these standards, most recently on October 24, 2022 with the previous Council, and with the current Council on March 13, 2023, and March 27, 2023.³

¹ See staff report from June 23, 2020: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/reports/city-manager-reports-cmrs/year-archive/2020/id-11439.pdf>

² See Ordinance 5572: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/city-clerk/ordinances/ordinances-1909-to-present/2022/ord-5572.pdf>

Resolution 10081: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/city-clerk/resolutions/resolutions-1909-to-present/2022/reso-10081.pdf>

³ See staff reports from October 24, 2022: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/agendas-minutes/city-council-agendas-minutes/2022/20221024/20221024pccsm-amended.pdf>

March 13, 2023: <https://cityofpaloalto.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=1091>

March 27, 2023: <https://cityofpaloalto.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=12500>

ANALYSIS

Adoption of this ordinance and resolution are required to allow parklets throughout the City to continue past June 30, 2023. This ordinance and resolution have no changes from their previous versions except to extend the sunset date to March 31, 2024. Extending the interim program through March 2024 will allow the interim program to continue uninterrupted until the permanent parklet program is adopted and rolled out to participating businesses.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

Continued staff time will be required to manage the interim parklet program. However, no additional resources are anticipated at this time.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The City Council held discussions on parklets most recently at its public meetings on March 13 and 27, 2023, and heard extensive public comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Adoption of this legislation is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines 15301 (existing facilities) and 15304(e) (minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment).

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Interim Ordinance Temporarily Continuing Expansion of Outdoor Dining Retail and Other Activities until March 31, 2024

Attachment B: Resolution Continuing the Pilot Parklet Demonstration Program until March 31, 2024

APPROVED BY:

Jonathan Lait, Planning and Development Services Director