

Dear Council members,

8-8-20

Please include me in any downtown renovation you are planning. I have lived here 50 years. I own the building at 934 Hermosa Ave, with 2 restaurants on it. This property is zoned C-2 Commercial, Downtown District. Exactly the same zoning as pier plaza. If you have lived here for a while you can see how the south side of downtown has been sort of forgotten. When lower Pier Ave was turned into a plaza 20 years ago, it turned my area into a ghost town compared to how it was before.

There are 6 restaurants in my zone. Everyone was suffering even before the virus. You can see that 3 of the 6 restaurants are out of business or temporarily closed: Hot's Kitchen, Ashley's Deli and Banzai Beach. Another one is in serious trouble. 5 of the 6 restaurants are on my side of the street. If you are planning on letting the restaurants expand into the street, then I should be included too. This would give the restaurants a chance to survive and compete with the pier.

Please include me because everyone in my downtown area needs the help. I have the same zoning and rights as pier plaza, C-2 Commercial. It would be terrible and unfair if you stop at the comedy club and are not including my property. I pay a fortune in property taxes. Now I have to pay for a new business license and I can't even open because of the virus. I know you are letting all restaurants expand on the street now, but it is only temporary and cost a lot of money to build. I don't want to do it if it's not permanent.

All you really need to do is add a few palm trees and give the restaurants the permanent outdoor street seating needed to survive. It would look uniform and inviting to customers. Please make it fair for everyone. I included a copy of my Business license and highlighted where it says Downtown Surcharge.

Thank You,

John Vilenica

934 Hermosa Ave Building and Restaurant Owner