

From: [Raymond Dussault](#)
To: [Suja Lowenthal](#); [City Council](#); [Ann Yang](#); [City Clerk](#); [Eduardo Sarmiento](#)
Subject: CLOSURE OF ALL RESTAURANTS, AND OFF-SITE ALCOHOLSALES/LIQUOR STORES BY 10 P.M.
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:58:11 AM

PLEASE ADD TO THE AGENDA IN A **TIMELY** MANNER

Dear City Council and City Manager:

As most know, I am not a fan of yours, nor you of me. But I am a concerned resident and I am particularly concerned about this move to close our small business restaurants & stores at 10PM.

Our restaurants have paid you hundreds of dollars to approve small outdoor patio extensions (though, for some inexplicable reason, many are still waiting for approval). They've invested tens of thousands of dollars in expanding where they can and complying with the myriad rules necessary to reopen while staying at less than 60 percent capacity. Their employees have given up unemployment payments to return to the work they love.

Every local restaurant I've been in is strictly following and enforcing the rules. I've seen patrons asked to leave for getting up and visiting other tables. I've seen patrons turned away because they didn't want to wear a mask until they received their food/beverage. Cautionary signage abounds.

We should be rewarding this effort, not punishing it.

As anyone knows who follows the council meetings, Mr. Massey tried to push 9PM closures when approving the extended patios, essentially offering a lifeline while pulling it away at the same time. No attempt was made to equate his effort with safety. That measure failed and somehow it is back again in an "emergency meeting."

As you all well know, our restaurants stay afloat through summer business and a handful of big holidays. It is the same for their employees. Many of the restaurants have told me that people's behaviors have changed, and it's become common to hit their biggest dinner rush well after 9PM. Perhaps that's not surprising since it's not dark until that time. Personally, I've been eating later than ever.

The beach closure alone will cause devastating financial harm to these businesses that are barely hanging on. It will make it difficult for their employees to pay rent, car payments and grocery bills. It will add stress in an already stressful time. Already, some restaurants have failed and will never reopen. Are we trying to break a few more?

Those hours you want to take away are vital to both the businesses and employees' survival. The revenue pays cooks, managers, bartenders and wait staff. The tips pay that staffs' personal bills. These are no magic hours you can just snatch away and it has no effect. The effect will be devastating and ripple through the community.

There is no scientific basis for taking food out of employee's mouths and vitally needed revenue away from drowning restaurants. No study I've read says the virus spreads more after 10PM.

Please do not punish our restaurants without compelling, documented, scientific evidence.

I do want to add that, while I may not be as fearful as you, I am not a denier. I recognize this is a real virus. I always wear a mask indoors without complaint. If I leave a restaurant table for the bathroom, I put my mask on. If I'm in public and pass someone I don't know, I either mask up or provide a wide, respectful berth.

Raymond Dussault

Resident