



July 1, 2020

TO: Hermosa Beach City Council

Dear Hermosa Beach City Council and City Manager,

This letter is to address some of your agenda items reflecting on our restaurants in Hermosa Beach during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. It is written with input from our members and many business owners.

Our businesses have been struggling throughout the year, starting with a slow winter. They were then hit with the COVID 19 closures. After many months of no business at all, they are now allowed to open with heavy restrictions and limitations. This upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend is what businesses are looking forward to, to help increase their sales and keep their employees working.

By adding further restrictions on this busy weekend, it is crippling the community. The restaurants have been doing a good job complying with regulations. All current regulations should be enforced and if any businesses are not following all the proper protocols, then only they should be addressed. Regulations already in effect should be enforced and put limitations on restaurants not following the COVID protocols.

According to our local restaurants, they have many late-night customers dining in their restaurants, and a lot are locals. Requiring restaurants to close at 10:00 pm is not only hurting our businesses but is also hurting our residents who have had many months being locked in and not able to dine out. In addition, please also remember that "last call" is 30 minutes before closing time, making the restaurants stop serving at 9:30 pm on a holiday weekend. Is this really accomplishing anything? House parties will flourish and more residents will be at risk.

In addition, with the pier, beaches and bike paths closed, along with the parking lots, this will limit the numbers of visitors coming to Hermosa Beach. Will prohibiting the queues in front of the restaurants really be that big a problem? This has been addressed before, and please remember that queues are a way of organizing people, without having them wandering around. The restaurants are already limited in capacity, and this just does not appear to be a problem.

By initiating a restrictive curfew over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, we believe the "Crisis of the Weekend" could be "Hermosa Beach has Curfews to control crowds" ... an exact opposite message this City has worked to send the world over the past 10 years. Hermosa Beach cares, has changed to not be just a "party city" and has government to control, not mandate, responsible business ownership. Please, do not make Hermosa Beach the national headline of an out of control city requiring curfews that prohibit normal local commerce. It will be a hard message to remove from memories.

Sincerely,

*Maureen Hunt*

Maureen Hunt  
President / CEO