



OUTDOOR DINING

## Temporary Outdoor Dining in San Diego Could Become Permanent

Proposed city program would charge a fee that would also improve sidewalks and outdoor spaces.



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Those temporary outdoor dining areas born during the pandemic could stick around a lot longer at your favorite restaurant.





The city of San Diego has proposed a program called [Spaces As Places](#) that would allow restaurants to make temporary dining areas permanent in exchange for a fee that would be used to improve public sidewalks and spaces.

“We’re OK with the fee if the city really uses it to improve the sidewalks, make it safer for pedestrians,” said Steve Billings, co-owner of [The Original 40 Brewing Company](#) in North Park.

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Have you enjoyed a beer outside @original40beer in North Park? Have you enjoyed eating outdoors anywhere? The @cityofsandiego is working on a way to make those areas permanent AND spruce up other parts of town at the same time. @nbcсандiego at 3:00.

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Billings said he spent roughly \$10,000 building an outdoor dining area along University Avenue.

“It’s been a great boost to our revenue,” Billings said. “It would definitely be worth it if we’re able to keep it for longer than a year or two.”

The outdoor dining areas were allowed during the pandemic to help restaurants to stay in business by serving customers on-site. Owners can continue using those areas under the city’s Temporary Outdoor Business Ordinance, which expires July 13, 2022.

If the Spaces As Places proposal passes this fall, restaurant owners can apply to continue their outdoor dining, pay a fee that supports the infrastructure improvements and comply with certain safety regulations.



The city of San Diego has [created a survey](#) to gather more information from residents. The city council could approve the proposal as early as this fall.

NBC 7 San Diego features Original 40 Brewing

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