

From: [Adam T. Shupe](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Fee for Restaurant Outdoor Dining
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 4:06:32 PM

~Salem City Council Members

I would like to express my sincere disappointment that the Council is considering charging our local business owners for the continued use of street parking areas for outside dining.

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, all of our local businesses are continuing to feel the pain of reduced traffic and increased regulations. To help levy against loss of business, the city graciously allowed for restaurants downtown to utilize former parking spots as outdoor dining areas. This decision was paramount in helping these businesses to survive and to allow Salem's residents to have a somewhat normal dining experience downtown.

That the Council is now considering walking back that gracious act by charging those same businesses for that space while we are still in the throes of the pandemic is unconscionable. Please consider allowing our Salem restaurants to continue using those spaces as they see fit until the pandemic is completely over.

Adam T. Shupe
Salem Resident~

From: dianashupe@yahoo.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: NO on charging restaurant a fee for outdoor dining
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 11:24:52 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I was very disappointed when I read that the Council was considering charging local restaurants a fee and limiting their outdoor dining areas that take up parking spots. We have all watched our local restaurants struggle through this pandemic. Many of them had to close completely and we lost some of that culture from Salem. Outdoor dining was sometimes the factor that saved these businesses and families. Salem should be doing everything we can to support our small business owners instead of adding more expense to their operations.

My self and my family and friends are not comfortable dining indoors and we only patron businesses who have outdoor dining. Our COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths were recently the highest they have been since this nightmare pandemic started and I know many many people who will not sit indoors to dine for that exact reason. Many of these businesses will not be able to afford this inappropriate fee and their business will again suffer.

I think it is outrageous to create any more hardships. I beg you to not hurt Salem businesses anymore than they already have been.

Sincerely,
Diana Shupe
Salem Resident