

Date: May 31, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Parklet Program Recommendation from CACoD**

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On Thursday, May 12, 2022 the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) approved a letter of recommendation (Attached) asking the City of Long Beach to consider reevaluating the use of temporary and permanent parklets. This letter was written, in part, to address the scheduled June 30, 2022 sunset of the temporary parklet program.

If you would like any further information regarding this communication, please contact Heather Van Wijk, Special Projects Officer, at (562) 570-6257 or [heather.vanwijk@longbeach.gov](mailto:heather.vanwijk@longbeach.gov).

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
ERIC LOPEZ, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

Kim Vuong, Chair  
VACANT, Vice Chair  
Dr. Gretchen Swanson, Secretary  
Stephen Adams, Commissioner



Nubia Flores, Commissioner  
Marissa Gonzalez, Commissioner  
Jeremy Hill, Commissioner  
Dr. Chris Karadjov, Commissioner  
Dr. Nicholas Matthews, Commissioner

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May 12, 2022

Mayor and Councilmembers  
Tom Modica, City Manager  
411 W Ocean Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Parklets that promote Mobility for All in the City of Long Beach

Almost immediately, the COVID pandemic took a toll on small businesses in Long Beach, including restaurants and bars. For many of these restaurants and bars to remain open, the City understandably created a temporary parklet program which allowed for outside dining in spaces this would normally not be permitted. We are relieved that our City is now beginning to return to normalcy, including inside gatherings, and moving forward economically.

Now is the time to re-evaluate the City-permitted temporary parklet program. CACoD has been made aware that many of the temporary parklets approved during the pandemic have unintentionally resulted in right-of-way restrictions, and at times inaccessibility, for our disability community. Although there have been attempts to enforce 5 feet of clear pedestrian access, this must be a temporary measure allowed during the pandemic. We know and have experienced along several corridors that the 5 feet of clear pedestrian access is not maintained nor enforced, being crossed and encroached by wait staff, restaurant customers and other members of the public, and sidewalk furniture without regard to pedestrians.

Our City includes residents and visitors who use a range of mobility devices, including manual and electric wheelchairs and scooters, walkers, walking canes, and all-white or red-tipped canes. Additionally, our residents and visitors with hearing loss require additional visual clues and support to navigate comfortably and safely.

With the impending sunset of the temporary parklets on June 30, 2022 and to sustain our economic viability – we urge the City and its departments to re-evaluate the parklets with our disability community in mind, and not after complaints are made. Additionally, we recommend a thoughtful accessibility review beyond ADA compliance before approving anymore future permanent parklets.

Lastly, we recommend that programs such as our City's Mobility Team and the Health Department's Walk-N-Roll Program design accommodating strategies to encourage *mobility for all*.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD)

Cc: Eric Lopez, Director, Department of Public Works