

**From:** sb <birky789@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:00 PM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** PARKING NOT PARKLETS: 5236 E 2ND STREET APPLICATION #2302-02(LCDP23-009, APL23-009)  
**Categories:** Yellow category

**-EXTERNAL-**

I oppose this and all applications for parklets along the Belmont Shore & Naples stretch of 2nd Street in Long Beach. Our stretch of 2nd Street is already a main, high traffic thoroughfare for thousands of vehicles daily. The parklets impede traffic, pose visibility risks and endanger vehicle traffic, bicycle traffic and pedestrians alike. As a resident of Belmont Shore I would appreciate that this and all other parklet applications are going to be denied.

Sincerely,

SB Sybesma

[REDACTED], Long Beach, CA 90803

**Alex Medina**

**From:** Gordon Wright <wright90803@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 7:44 PM  
**To:** Gordon Wright; PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** Opposition to Legends' Parklet request

**Categories:** Yellow category

**-EXTERNAL-**

As a resident homeowner, I am asking that the Planning Commission deny Legends Bar and Grill's request for a permanent parklet in Belmont Shore. The granting of this parklet gives this business establishment's desire for additional outdoor eating space preferential treatment over the residents' need for adequate parking and quality of life issues.

It is not debatable that there is already a significant parking shortage in Belmont Shore. A shortage exacerbated when restaurants were permitted to occupy store fronts originally housing boutique retail shops. These shops had minimal parking for the customers patronizing these shops. This over saturation of restaurants, with the people they employ as well as the customers they serve who drive into the area is a direct cause leading to the current parking shortage. In addition, the city's recent approval of ADU's have allowed investors, not residents, to convert garages into living spaces and removed a requirement that a garage be present at the domicile.

Parklets impede traffic. The amount of traffic in Belmont Shore has grown exponentially over the years. Today, tens of thousands of commuters use Second Street as a daily alternative to the freeway for reaching their Orange County destination. Second Street is often clogged with slow moving traffic. As a result, residents are negatively impacted as these drivers exit Second Street for neighboring side streets seeking a way to get ahead of the traffic. To complicate matters, the city has converted one of only two lanes to a bicycle lane. With the addition of parklets, these cyclists are pushed further into car traffic causing an even greater impediment to traffic flow.

Parklets create a physical barrier to a clear view of pedestrians. Drivers need an unobstructed view of the sidewalks and road crossings to guarantee the safety of pedestrians and reduce the risk to drivers of accidentally injuring someone walking on Second Street. Parklets pose an absolute risk to the safety of pedestrians and drivers. Personally, I have witness during the time of the temporary parklets, countless number of drivers make a wrong turn down a one way street. Because they were unable to turn around, almost all these drivers continued down the one way street, often exceeding the speed limit in order to get off the street.

Parklets not only impact parking and the flow of traffic on the roads, they also impact the sidewalks. Speaking again from experience that I encountered during the temporary parklets program, Legend's and other restaurants positioned „hostess stands“ on the sidewalk to take reservations and greet customers. As can be expected, customers would congregate around these stands waiting for their names to be called. These people would stand in the middle of the sidewalk, never moving to let people pass. It was as if they were claiming an unquestionable right to occupy this space. Restaurant staff never attempted to keep the sidewalk clear so people could pass. Instead, they chose not to address the issue so they would not offend their customers.

There are really plenty of legitimate reasons to deny Legends' parklet request and only one self serving reason to grant it. A denial of parklet does not put a nail in the coffin of this business. Legends has been in business for years and has done well without a parklet. They do currently have sidewalk dining available for those wishing to eat outdoors. A denial will in no way negatively impact their business. Consequently, an approval will have an incredibly negative impact on the neighborhood and the residents who call Belmont Shore home. Once a parklet is granted for one business, all the other restaurants will claim a „me, too“ stance, arguing that they will experience an unfair disadvantage if their parklet requests are not also granted.

I have read newspaper articles that state Belmont Shore accounts for two thirds of all parklet requests made for the entire city. It makes absolutely no sense to remove parking spaces from one of the most parking deficient neighborhoods in the city at the request of a business.

I encourage you to use reason in reaching your decision. If you do, a denial would be appropriate.

Thank you,  
Gordon Wright  
[REDACTED], Long Beach, CA 90803  
[wright90803@gmail.com](mailto:wright90803@gmail.com)

**Alex Medina**

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**From:** kimberly tashkin <kimberlytashkin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:09 PM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** written testimony against parklets

**Categories:** Yellow category

**-EXTERNAL-**

To whom it may concern:

I am against Legends securing a parklet. They should not be allowed to expand onto designated space reserved for the public. In the past, when they did have their temporary parklet, it was difficult walking on the sidewalk in the evening. I have lived in the Shore for twenty year and I enjoy my evening walks. The patrons at Legends would yell at the TV's and on most occasions would stand and block the sidewalk. One day I smelled marijuana smoke coming from the parklet. I asked a police officer who happened to be nearby and he said there was nothing they could do to enforce this since Legends is a private entity.

There are a few other reasons why I don't think Legends should be permitted to construct a parklet. They would be occupying parking spaces so their patrons would have to park on the side streets where parking is already scarce.

Lastlly, the noise coming from the bars has been a real problem since the start of the pandemic. The cars with loud exhaust pipes go up and down my street when the bars close. We have replaced our widows without much relief. I contacted Suzie Price's office and the traffic controller about this issue. I even collected 50 signatures on my block to see if we could have speed bumps installed on Granada Ave. Nothing was done. If Legend is allowed to have this parklet I would imagine more patrons will be occupying the bars and therefore we will have more cars leaving the bars at 2 am. These cars, as I mentioned before, tend to be the ones with the loud exhaust pipes. It's not fair that they can cause more noise pollution and there is nothing the residents can do about it. I have contacted the LB non emergency line to see if we can have more enforcement during the hours of midnight and 2 am. Nothing was done. This is just not fair. Covid is fortunately not a threat anymore to the hospitals since we have an effective vaccine and therapeutics and therefore there is no reason at this time to have a parklet. Legends is not suffering finacially and they can survive and thrive without this parklet. So why should they be allowed to occupy public space?

Thanks,  
Kim Tashkin  
Granada Ave resident.

**From:** Elaine Tashkin <etashkin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 6:14 AM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** No on permanent parklet for sports bars

**Categories:** Yellow category

**-EXTERNAL-**

We strongly object to having parklets on second street, especially in front of the sports bars. Legends and the other sports bars are already overcrowded. Having a parklet in front of Legends will be advantageous to the owner of Legends, but not to the residents who live in Belmont Shore. Already the noise from the bars and the razed up cars that leave the bars and continues late into the night are deafening to us and to all of our Belmont Shore friends. Parking which already is so difficult on second street will increase because of having less parking spaces. Therefore. We are definitely opposed to the proposed parklet in front of Legends.

Elaine and Don Tashkin

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)