



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

Richard Montgomery
Mayor

November 24, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, Med Director,
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
313 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Proposed Health Officer Order Prohibiting In-Person Dining in
Los Angeles County**

Honorable Board of Supervisors and Dr. Ferrer,

The City of Manhattan Beach strongly opposes the proposed Los Angeles County Health Officer Order, prohibiting in-person dining at restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars due to COVID-19. We have been informed that the proposed effective date is tomorrow, November 25. The proposed modifications will devastate businesses, particularly on the cusp of Thanksgiving. Businesses have indicated that they will have to close permanently.

Our business community has expressed grave concern that prohibiting in-person dining will result in irreparable harm. Having struggled since March, restaurants have made extraordinary investments in health and safety measures such as installing outdoor dining improvements and purchasing personal protective equipment to comply with all the Health Officer Orders. These investments have served to keep their customers safe, and continue to provide jobs and contributions to the economy.

Business districts, employees, families, and communities as a whole rely on the economic activity that restaurants, breweries, wineries, and bars generate. Take-out and delivery only is not sustainable. Closure of these businesses will have an immense impact on the economic and mental health of many that are already on the verge of bankruptcy and struggling to provide for their families.

MANHATTAN BEACH CITY HALL

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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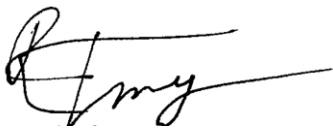
Over 59 businesses in Manhattan Beach and 209 in the South Bay have signed the “Safe in the South Bay” commitment, pledging to adhere to and implement the latest safety guidelines and best practices to combat COVID-19, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health protocols.

We understand the need to find the right path to reducing exposure and that difficult sacrifices must be made, but let’s not put this on the backs of our restaurants, breweries, wineries, and bars that have gone to great lengths to show compliance and remain open.

The City of Manhattan Beach urges you to take action today by reconsidering the proposed prohibition on in-person dining and present other options that strike a balance between economic recovery and the protocols to keep the public safe.

Thank you in advance for your dedication to public health and your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Montgomery
Mayor of Manhattan Beach