



October 20, 2020

Dave Sykes, City Manager
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Expand San Jose Al Fresco Dining Hours

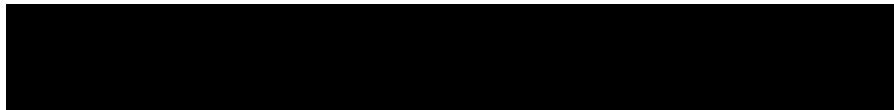
Dear Mr. Sykes:

On behalf of The Silicon Valley Organization (The SVO) and the San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA), I am writing to urge you to issue an emergency order to expand San Jose Al Fresco dining hours to midnight effective immediately. Over the weekend, many local businesses and restaurants were astonished to see law enforcement officials shut down their outdoor dining operations, especially now that our County has moved into the Orange Tier. While the weather is still relatively warmer, we need the City to take immediate action to allow local restaurants to serve customers now before the winter season arrives and we lose this opportunity to save our local, small businesses.

As you already know, the pandemic has put a major strain on local businesses and especially on restaurants. The City has been a forward-thinking leader by championing San Jose Al Fresco, but now that very same regulation is stopping local businesses from getting a fighting chance to survive. When Santa Clara County announced a Revised Risk Reduction Order as we enter the Orange Tier, the outdoor dining hours should have expanded to allow patio dining until midnight; yet, San Jose is behind the curve and that regulation is stopping us from being fully aligned with the County. The inconsistent regulations are killing our restaurants because, while indoor dining can be allowed until midnight, San Jose is shutting down outdoor dining at 10pm.

While we still have a chance to save our local businesses, San Jose must immediately issue a new emergency order to expand Al Fresco dining hours in the Entertainment Zone to midnight. Many restaurants need the additional foot traffic from 10pm to midnight to provide revenue to survive. Time is of the essence and we urge immediate action to make a difference for local businesses.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Mahood
President & CEO
The Silicon Valley Organization

Scott Knies
Executive Director
San Jose Downtown Association

cc: San Jose City Council