

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Stacey Wharam <stacey@fontainecaffe.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 5:24 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Fontaine Caffe Parklet Spaces
Attachments: IMG_0884.heic; IMG_0882.HEIC; IMG_0881.HEIC; IMG_0883.HEIC; IMG_0885.HEIC; IMG_0886.HEIC

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"Where the Locals Eat"

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stacey Wharam** <stacey@fontainecaffe.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Fontaine Caffe Parklet Spaces
To: <CouncilComments@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Marc Miller <mmiller@dtm.law>

Dear Council Members:

By way of introduction, my name is Stacey Wharam. In addition to being City residents, my husband and I own and operate three restaurants in the City: Kaizen Tavern (1900 Mt. Vernon Ave.), Grape & Bean (2 E. Walnut Street) and Fontaine (119 S. Royal Street). My understanding is that the Council will be discussing the Parklet Program at its October 11 meeting. That said, I want to bring to the Council's attention how the current Parklet Regulations have negatively impacted our business at Fontaine and respectfully suggest a minor tweak to the regulations that would serve to help Fontaine and perhaps other similarly situated restaurants in the City.

Since May 2020, Fontaine has operated four parklets, including two parklets that are immediately adjacent to The Alexandrian Hotel. It is important to note that the two parklets at issue are not in front of The Alexandrian Hotel but are situated on the side of the hotel on **South Royal** and away from the main entrance to the hotel on King Street. Pictures of the parklets are attached. Despite repeated requests of the hotel ownership and a meeting with City staff, myself and hotel management, the Alexandrian Hotel has refused to grant us a letter of support for the two additional parklets that abut the side – not front – of the hotel.

The loss of the two additional parklets will significantly impact Fontaine's business. The two parklets at issue annually generate 75K in revenue and 19K in tips. The loss in revenue will most certainly necessitate the reduction in staff hours and perhaps a reduction in staff. Additionally, Fontaine traditionally serves an older clientele that prefers to dine outside because of COVID concerns.

To alleviate the aforementioned impact on Fontaine and perhaps similarly situated restaurants within the City, I suggest that the letter of support requirement be specifically limited to additional parklets that abut the store front of a neighboring business. The "letter of support" requirement seeks to gain the consent of a neighboring business to obstruct or otherwise disturb the curb appeal of the neighboring business. That makes perfect sense. However, the regulations should not require a letter of support for parklets on the side of a neighboring business. I also note that the loss of two parking spaces in no way impacts the Alexandrian Hotel as they have their own parking garage.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

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NOTICE

and Parking Board Public Hearing

is applying for a permanent
change. Please contact Mr.
Gibson at 410-326-1234 or
gibson@cityofbaltimore.gov for more
information. The hearing will be
held on September 26, 2017, at
10:00 AM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 410-326-1234
OR VISIT THE CITY OF BALTIMORE WEBSITE
AT www.cityofbaltimore.gov







