

1. All outdoor cafés, restaurants, and bars must be limited to the frontage of the establishment and never extend to adjacent buildings so they don't take over our streets.
2. The operating hours are absurdly long – from 8 a.m. to midnight, even in districts where tens of thousands of residents live. Cut those hours back to noon to 9 p.m. in residential and mixed-use districts for those of us that need peace and quiet
3. The rules say no amplified sound outdoors. The same prohibition should rule indoors in any restaurant/bar that has its windows or doors open. No noise spilling into the street!
4. The rules give emergency vehicles just a 15-foot lane. It should be that 18 feet. Public safety must come before the needs of private businesses.
5. The rules ought to clearly state that all roadway cafe structures must be removed from December through March so that our streets can be swept at least 4 months a year. The language now allows restaurants to drag their feet well into December and start rebuilding in March.
6. Calling structures “open” is too vague. Guidelines must prohibit all roofs and walls, and say so. Structures must be readily removable in the event of an emergency. If a forklift or backhoe is required for removal, it's not a removable structure,
7. Bring back the 3' service aisle that was the sensible standard in the pre-pandemic sidewalk café program.
8. No outdoor heating. In the midst of a climate emergency, the DOT's proposed rules allow restaurants to heat the outdoors in order to pamper their high-end dining customers. This is unacceptable.