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To: [Julian Skinner](#)
Subject: Outdoor Dining
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Good Morning Mr. Skinner,

It has just been brought to my attention that the city of Larkspur has adopted a new policy of charging fees for restaurants to continue offering outdoor dining. I think we all know that is unfair, particularly in the case of restaurants like Rulli who have been offering outdoor dining for 35 years.

This feels like a greedy money grab and will likely back fire on the city with a reduction in tax revenue, as restaurants will have less revenue during the winter months. With the current price of everything we are all barely surviving. If you have to charge people, perhaps something that is actually reasonable would be more appropriate. I can not believe that it costs the city anywhere near that much to maintain the spaces.

The ability to expand onto the streets might be one of the very few upsides to the catastrophic damage forced lockdowns have caused our business owners. To require this change as the winter months approach and Covid ramps back up, will be a huge hit to businesses who aren't in a position to pay this fee and now wont be able to accommodate customers who are still cautious of the easier transmission of infections in enclosed spaces, so will stay home instead. Businesses will end up closing after struggling through the past three years. Hindsight is 20/20. A little foresight in this case, might save the town of Larkspur a big financial hit and ultimately your position as public works director.

Hilary Ritter

Hilary