



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Adopt a Resolution Extending the Temporary Downtown Parklet Program and Corresponding Encroachment Permits to September 15, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a Resolution extending the Temporary Downtown Parklet Program and corresponding encroachment permits to September 15, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no fiscal implications and no additional appropriation is needed at this time. Existing operational costs are included in the Fiscal Year 2024- 25 Adopted Budget.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the governor's emergency order, the City Council authorized the temporary closure of portions of Laurel Street and elimination of certain parking spaces to accommodate outdoor dining. The program was last extended in August 2023 and expired on September 15, 2024.

ANALYSIS:

The temporary closure of the 700 block of Laurel Street and City Parklet Program was originally established to support restaurants and businesses and to promote safe distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many businesses took advantage of this temporary closure to expand outdoor seating areas and establish parklets granted through revocable encroachment permits. There are currently 35 active parklets in the downtown.

Since the last extension of the Temporary Downtown Parklet Program, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1605, effective January 10, 2024, establishing a pedestrian mall on the 700 block of Laurel Street.

In light of the permanent closure of the 700 block of Laurel Street, staff recommends that the City extend the Temporary Downtown Parklet Program with the understanding that the City Council will review and assess the program again in one year.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to the City Council include:

1. Adopt a Resolution extending the Temporary Downtown Parklet Program and corresponding encroachment permits to September 15, 2025; or
2. Do not adopt the Resolution; or
3. Provide staff with alternative direction.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steven Machida, Public Works Director

Approved for submission by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Maltbie', is written above a horizontal line.

Jeff Maltbie, City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution