

18 January 2022

CPCR.2022.004 (PDRPRES.2022.022) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION TO SUPPORT TO AMENDING CITY CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO REGULATING PARKLETS

WHEREAS, City Council amended and reordained City Code to add §24-251 through §24-258 in 2016 for the purpose of permitting pedestrian enhancements within the right-of-way and excluding pedestrian enhancements from the general encroachment provisions set forth in the City Code, including "parklets;" and

WHEREAS, §24-251 defines a "parklet" to be "a removable platform made available to the public for recreational use that occupies a portion of a parking lane that is closed to motor vehicle parking;" and

WHEREAS, this definition does not permit a restaurant to use a parklet as an outdoor dining space reserved for exclusive use by their patrons, subject to the terms and conditions of their food service permits and alcohol licenses; and

WHEREAS, such types of "streatery" uses should be encouraged as a means to provide outdoor, socially-distanced dining spaces during a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, streateries should be encouraged as an economic development activity that enlarges the tax base and facilitates an attractive community; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of streateries remains necessary in order to maintain health, sanitation, and general welfare and prevent congestion in streets.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, for the purposes of public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good land use practices, the City of Richmond Planning Commission hereby adopts a resolution to support to amending City Code as it pertains to regulating parklets in order to permit streatery uses.

Rodney Poole

Chair, Planning Commission

Richard Saunders

Secretary, Planning Commission