

City of Palo Alto

Department of Planning and
Community Environment

January 8, 2008

Sherry Bijan, Executive Director
Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association
721 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Ms. Bijan,

I want to inform you and your members of a staff-recommended ordinance change that the City Council will hear later this month, January 22. The change would enable restaurants with legally permitted sidewalk seating areas to serve alcohol to patrons dining at those tables. Currently, alcohol service is not allowed due to a provision of the Municipal Code designed to prohibit people from consuming alcohol on City streets, sidewalks, parks, and parking lots. The original intent of that code provision seems to have been to prevent public drunkenness, not to prohibit alcohol consumption by restaurant patrons, so we are recommending an exception be added to make that clear.

If you or any other members of the Palo Alto business community have any questions, please contact me at 650-329-2230.

Sincerely,



Jon Abendschein
Code Enforcement Supervisor

250 Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 10250
Palo Alto, CA 94303
650.329.2441
650.329.2154