



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### December 2, 2020

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Provide direction to staff regarding the closure of the lower portion of Mono Alley and reopening the Mono Parking Lot from Wednesday thru Sunday.

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Provide direction to staff regarding the closure of the lower portion of Mono Alley and reopening the Mono Parking Lot from Wednesday through Sunday.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In June 2020, the Council took actions to allow for outdoor dining and business uses. One action was that the Council granted staff authority to close portions of the Mono Parking lot for outdoor seating. The Council also adopted Resolution 20-19 which granted authority to staff to close portions of Mono Alley (Mono Ave/Bolinas Rd) for open air dining and other business purposes. This was all in response to County Health Orders limiting the indoor capacity of restaurants and other businesses due to COVID-19. We started closing the lower portion of the Mono Parking lot from Thursday through Sunday, as approved by the Council. The Chamber of Commerce volunteers and Gestalt Haus have teamed up to set up the tables, chairs, and umbrellas as well as to clean the tables and chairs between uses.

At its October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council received a presentation from the Chamber of Commerce regarding its user and business surveys of the Mono parking lot. The Council continued the matter to the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting for further discussion and direction to staff.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Council authorized staff to close the Mono Parking lot from Wednesday through Sunday. The Council also approved the closure of the lot on Monday and/or Tuesday for special events (e.g., local craft vendors).

#### **DISCUSSION**

With the upcoming winter months and the likelihood of inclement weather, we will need to set up a tent structure in the Mono parking lot. However, there are limited resources to set up a tent, secure it, and remove it on a weekly basis. Given this constraint, Mayor Goddard, the Chamber of Commerce, and staff would like the Council to consider an alternate option. The option would be to close the lower portion of Mono Alley (adjacent to Gestalt Haus) for seven days a week with a "permanent" tent structure installed. The tables and chairs would be serviced by Gestalt Haus staff during business hours. During non-business hours the tent would be closed to the public. In exchange, the Mono Parking Lot would no longer be closed Wednesday through Sunday for outdoor uses. Staff would still want the authority to close the Mono Parking Lot for special events.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

n/a