



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### February 17, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Discuss/consider expanding the closure of the lower portion of the Mono Parking Lot from up to five (5) days per week to up to seven (7) days per week and authorize staff as appropriate

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss/consider expanding the closure of the lower portion of the Mono Parking Lot from up to five (5) days per week to up to seven (7) days per week and authorize staff, as appropriate.

#### **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 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). Please note Gestalt Haus no longer closes Mono Alley.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Given the mild winter weather, Councilmember Goddard and the Chamber of Commerce are requesting the Council consider expanding the closure of the lower portion of the Mono Parking Lot (Lot) from up to five (5) days per week to up to seven (7) days per week. As stated above, the Lot can currently be closed from Wednesday through Sunday. The request is for the authority to also close the lot on Monday and Tuesday. However, the expanded closure of the Lot is contingent on the Chamber establishing a process for the set-up/break down of the tables, chairs, and umbrellas on Monday and Tuesday. The closure would not occur until such a system is in place. Please note the authority provides for the option to close the Lot only one additional day (Tuesday) and keep the Lot open on Monday. The authorization would allow staff to move forward with the closure when a system is in place, rather than having to return to the Council for authority. We will monitor the closure of the Lot on Monday and Tuesday to evaluate its use by downtown patrons.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** n/a

AGENDA ITEM #8