



Lake Havasu City Downtown Association
March 10th, 2026

City of Lake Havasu City
2330 McCulloch Blvd N
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the LHC Downtown Association, and in response to ongoing conversations with downtown business owners and stakeholders, we respectfully request that the City Council direct staff to prepare a potential amendment to City Code Section 14.03.03.E.4.c to allow permanent extensions of premises on Main Street McCulloch between Smoketree and Querio where adequate pedestrian access and safety standards can be maintained.

Currently, Section 14.03.03.E.4.c requires that furniture, equipment, and other appurtenances in the public right-of-way be removed at the close of each business day and prohibits permanent structures within these areas. While this serves an important purpose, it can limit investment in quality outdoor dining spaces and pedestrian-oriented improvements that contribute to a vibrant downtown environment.

Many downtown districts have successfully incorporated permanent outdoor dining areas and similar streetscape improvements that enhance walkability, increase foot traffic, and support local businesses. Allowing permanent extensions of premises, subject to appropriate City review, safety standards, and right-of-way agreements, would support continued downtown revitalization, future redevelopment, and new private investment.

As an initial step, the Downtown Association would support consideration of a pilot program along Main Street McCulloch between Smoketree and Querio to evaluate an extension of premises framework. This approach would allow the City to assess real-world impacts related to pedestrian access, safety, operations, and overall downtown activity. Based on the results of the pilot program, the City could then consider implementation of a permanent extension of premises within the downtown district, consistent with the standards established through the pilot.

The Downtown Association understands that any change involving the public right-of-way must carefully address safety, accessibility, and operations. We fully support maintaining required pedestrian clearances and ADA accessibility standards, along with appropriate oversight by City staff, including indemnification agreements and right-of-way lease requirements where applicable.

This request was approved by a unanimous vote of the Downtown Association Board on March 9th, 2026.

We appreciate the City's continued partnership in supporting downtown revitalization and look forward to working collaboratively with staff and Council as this concept is explored.

Sincerely,

JP Thornton
President
Lake Havasu City Downtown Association