

Memo

To: Charlotte City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: June 10, 2016
Re: Sidewalk Café Policy change proposed

The City of Charlotte adopted a sidewalk café policy approximately 10 years ago. The intention was to create a policy that would allow for, and encourage, the creation of sidewalk cafes at local restaurants in the downtown area. I have attached the policy for your reference.

The Gavel restaurant had outdoor seating for one year. Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee Company has outdoor seating, but because it is recessed into the face of the building and not in the public Right-of-Way, the policy does not apply there. Sidestreets Deli has had outdoor seating for two years, and now Riedy's Pizza/White Rose Café has installed a sidewalk café area.

Riedy's Pizza has since made a request to the Mayor that the City consider extending the hours that outdoor cafes are allowed to operate. Currently, the policy requires these cafes to cease operation at 10 p.m. After discussing this with the Mayor, I asked the Downtown Development Authority Board, which was responsible for drafting the original policy, to consider this request and make a recommendation.

I reviewed my notes from when the policy was adopted, and the 10 p.m. limitation was intended to protect residents who live above storefronts from excessive noise in the evening.

After discussing the issue at its meeting this week, the DDA Board would like to recommend that the City Council extend the hours of

operation to 11 p.m. for the balance of the season (November 15 at the latest), and then re-evaluate it.

I have asked that this be placed on the Expedited Resolutions portion of the agenda because most of June would be lost if this required two meetings for review and approval.