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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Robert Rosenthal  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2022 8:06 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social club

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Please approve the Conditional Use Permit to allow the Love Social Cafe to use its back garden for customers.

1) The dedicated local owners suffered severe economic hardship during the pandemic. They absolutely require the garden area so they can serve enough customers to start recovering their losses and make a profit.

Any reasonable person would agree that this is not the time to deny a longtime local business the lifeline it needs to survive.

2) The Love Social Cafe provides jobs for local residents and tax revenue to the city. These will be lost if the cafe has to close.

3) The garden also serves the community. It is a place to gather, meet new people, and enjoy quiet and fresh air — without compromising social distancing during the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you for considering the views of the public on this issue Bob and Patrice Rosenthal

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Aviva Bernat  
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:08 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social Cafe Garden

I am an Ojai resident and registered voter .

I have benefitted greatly from the outdoor garden at Love cafe during these challenging times through the pandemic . Love cafe created a space where we can safely and comfortably dine but even more importantly be in connection with others outdoors at a distance. As much as we would like to say we are done with this coronavirus, unfortunately it is not done with us and dining inside is not currently a safe option.

Love cafe worked hard to create this beautiful and safe community environment and they have provided a true community public service .

Please continue their permit for the outdoor garden . We need this during challenging times and joyful times .

Thank you

Sincerely, Aviva Shira Bernat MD  
Transformational Medicine

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Miller  
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 5:11 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck <  
Subject: Love Cafe Garden Patio

Shari

I live here in ojai and I'm a regular customer of Love Cafe... I support the conditional use permit and continued use of the garden dining area in back. It's a great place to relax in the shade and enjoy a coffee or breakfast and time with family and friends. I would say Love Cafe is a gem of ojai. Please help support their business so they can continue to provide for locals and tourists alike.

Thank You, Chris Miller

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Bill

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:37 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck <shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov>

**Cc:** James Vega; Robin Godfrey; Nick Oatway

**Subject:** Planning. Commission 7/20/22

To: Planning Commission 7/20/22 4:35 pm

From: Bill Miley

Subject: meeting 7/20/22 ... Love restaurant decision

Hello: this email looks different as i lost my line spacing control. It jumps 2 spaces and indents. ☺️💡  
My several points are presented below. Several statements come directly from the city municipal code.

1. (The need for buffering differing functions) Title 10. Planning and Zoning...lu 10
  - A) "Require that adequate *buffering* and transitions be provided between dissimilar uses. Where a question of compatibility exists, require the new use to conform to the lower intensity."
2. (Zoning sound/noise standards) Our noise ordinance sets these standards for maximum sound in different zones. 7am to 10 pm residential 55db. VMU 7am to 10pm 55db. Night time for each is 45db  
My point here is that residential properties and others in VMU have the same maximum standard numbers.
3. Normal conversation is 55 to 60db. It is important to know that with each 10 decibel increase the sound doubles. A 5 decibel increase is 50% louder. It would be helpful to have a recording of different sound levels to play at such a hearing in the future. As folks gather in numbers (up to 40) the amplitude or loudness increases and pitch or hertz rises. Keeping that down to 55 db and below will be impossible. Monitoring such if approved will require an on site digital decibel monitor with memory for off loading sealed in a secure box with adequate sound opening.

I agree with the planner's conclusion that a rear open patio adjacent to a residential fence and other residences presents sound dynamics which are un-mitigable.

Sincerely, Bill Miley

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** S. D. Colomé  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:11 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** July 20, 2022 PC Meeting Agenda Item #4

I encourage the PC to reject the staff recommendation and allow the Love Cafe to continue utilizing the outdoor garden setting that was initially authorized for temporary dining due to Covid. This proposed denial by staff is inconsistent with previous projects that involved outdoor dining and other outdoor activities.

The business is located within the VMU zone; and based on my experience the cafe is a quiet and non-intrusive neighbor with limited hours of operation. There are very few properties adjacent to and potentially affected by operation of the cafe.

While we all wish for the global epidemic to end, the virus apparently is not finished with us. It is very possible that we need to continue practicing social distancing and other preventive measures.

I recommend that the Commission urge continuation of the use of the garden area and consider making that use permanent.

Sincerely, Steven Colome  
Ojai

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Diana Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:29 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social Cafe back patio

Dear Shari,

I am writing to commend Love Social Cafe for providing a beautiful outdoor space for their customers. The tables are spaced far apart, allowing conversations to be private. Customers can be in the sun or shade, whichever they prefer. It's a quiet space in which I've seen individuals writing and studying. It feels almost like being in nature, and is a gift to the people of Ojai.

If regulations prevent it from continuing, I am sad, and thankful to the owners for their response to the pandemic we find ourselves in.

Sincerely, Diana Kelly

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

From: Elise Arnold  
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:28 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love/social cafe

Dear Shari,

Please support the Ojai community by voting to keep the garden area for use of patrons at the Live cafe. Spaces like this make Ojai a place people want to hang out!

Sincerely, Elise Arnold

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

From: Dolli  
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:24 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social Cafe

Dear Shari,

Concerning the pending Conditional Use Permit application for the back garden area of the Love Cafe, I would like to present the following for your consideration.

In this day and age of climate change and a global pandemic, it seems to me and my friends that places like the Love Cafe play an important role in diminishing the unease and anxiety people experience as a result of all this. There is a real need for local areas where we can meet, enjoy each other's company, conversation, and a little good food and drink. It goes a long way in making everybody feel better.

The owner(s) and staff of the Love Social Cafe here in Ojai have gone to quite some effort and expense to provide such a place. The back garden is quiet, attractive, comfortable and, with the Corona virus in mind, simply perfect for the above-mentioned activities. Furthermore, I would like to mention that we never have experienced any undue noise created by the cafe's customers.

Please give this your thoughts and attention.  
I sincerely hope that the pending permit will be extended.

With warm regards, Dolli Alexander

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** David Taylor

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:20 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Social Cafe's Permit

Sean and Felicia Mason are beloved community members with Ojai's best interests at heart, with long-time family roots in Ojai. The additional seating in the back garden has been exactly what Ojai needed after two years of shut-downs and restrictions; a place where we can all come together and enjoy each other's company. I have personally enjoyed the back garden area at least 4-5 days a week since the temporary permit was approved. I would be devastated to lose my favorite local oasis, and the place where I met the love of my life. Children, families, pets, and friends all commune and enjoy this space every day. It is rare in our town to have such a peaceful outdoor eatery, and it would be shameful to take it away from the thousands of locals and visitors alike who come each week for the relaxing beauty of the back garden.

Having known Sean and Felicia for six+ years, I know how much they love this community, and have built Love Social Cafe's ambiance with care and intention. I am certain that this community would lose a much-valued and much-loved addition to our public spaces if their permit is denied. Please grant them their permit and allow them to continue adding value to our community. The people of Ojai need this. We do not need yet another vacant lot!

Best, David Taylor

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Jill Cohen

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:33 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Save the LOVE Social Cafe Garden

Dear Ms. Herbruck,

I am an Ojai resident and business owner, and I am writing in support of the approval of the Conditional Use Permit for use of the back garden currently used by LOVE Social Café.

LOVE has been with us, offering love and support (and great food) through the roughest days of the pandemic, and has provided a respite from the crush of tourists and crowds on Ojai Ave. who have returned to Ojai in droves. The garden has provided a tranquil place for many folks to relax, socially-distanced, in a beautiful and safe environment. Felicia and Sean Mason are important members of the Ojai business community, and we should be encouraging, not restricting their growth and success. There is plenty of parking for people, in the lots and on the streets, and the garden visitors are well-behaved, so I am not sure why the City would be inclined to take such a punitive measure.

I will attend the meeting this evening virtually, and look forward to your support.

Best wishes, Jill Cohen

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Eastwood  
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:16 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: LOVE SOCIAL BACK GARDEN

Please consider allowing Love Social to continue using the seating area in the parking lot/back garden.

As new residents of Ojai we appreciate what they have done for the community by creating a safe place to eat outside during the ongoing pandemic. There are not many places to feel safe, especially since many have begun opting to stop wearing masks which are meant to protect us all.

We really hope the city council will allow Love Social to continue providing a healthy and happy place for all the residents and visitors.

Respectfully, Adam Eastwood



**Ojai Valley**  
Chamber of Commerce

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 20 2022**

TO: Ojai Planning Commission

**Community Development  
Department**

RE: Item 4 on July 20 meeting agenda – Love Social Café CUP

It is very surprising that the CUP request by Love Social Café isn't being recommended by the City's Community Development Department to be approved. Just about everybody in Ojai supports and loves this Ojai establishment and have enjoyed their coffee and foods sitting out in the back garden area of the property which is so relaxing and peaceful. What a natural additional seating area for patrons.

It is even more surprising that we aren't encouraging more outdoor eating spaces after all of the COVID challenges we have had and are still facing.... It's the new norm everywhere.

Because the restaurant closes at 2:00 in the afternoon each day, noise affecting a neighborhood really should be a non-issue, especially if the CUP requires this garden area to be closed after hours.

Other than the two noise complaints that took place almost a year ago last Fall regarding amplified music (where citations were not issued), I didn't see any additional issues that would not allow this CUP to be approved.

Something just doesn't feel right about how this request by Love Social Café has been positioned as a bad thing. On the contrary, this garden seating area seems like the kind of request we want to encourage in Ojai promoting commerce and safer outdoor patio eating environments.

Jamie Fleming  
CEO, OJAI VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
818.209.0627

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Marisa Chen Moller

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:41 AM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** re: LO>E Social Cafe Outdoor CUP

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Marisa Moller and I am writing on behalf of the continuation for the CUP of the outdoor garden area at the LO>E Social Cafe on Signal Street. As a former restaurant owner here in the Ojai Valley, I understand the importance of outdoor areas for the already slim margins in the success or failure of these types of businesses. I have enjoyed the peaceful setting of their garden area as a respite on my dog walks through downtown, and they have been gracious enough to allow me to shoot photos for the neighboring business, Pixie's General Store as a content contributor. It has been a welcome, locally owned, place to send friends & family when they come to Ojai and we want to continue to have such a vibrant place to enjoy.

I believe to extend the CUP of the garden area at LO>E Social Cafe will only continue to provide the downtown Ojai Valley with excellent service and local support of our everyday citizens. I would ask that the powers that be kindly consider their extended CUP in this capacity.

Thank you, Marisa Moller

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Linda le Brock  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:25 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Supporting local small businesses

To Shari Herbruck,

I was surprised and deeply disappointed to hear the City of Ojai attempting to shut down part of the outdoor space at Love Social Café. This café has a wonderful community atmosphere that has plenty of safe, open space to dine and gather. During Covid this has been a Godsend to have this safe gathering space. It's family friendly and pet friendly and has a real sense of community. Something that has become more and more rare in Ojai.

As Los Angeles prepares to again institute mask wearing for indoor dining, due the highly contagious variants of Covid, we should not at this time even think about reducing outdoor gathering space. I would think about the tremendous strain small businesses—especially restaurants—have endured during these last few years of Covid. It's hard enough in the best of times to run a small business. Let's show our local businesses the love and support they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration, Linda le Brock  
Publisher, Pacific Coast Business Times

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Kathryn Carlson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social Cafe Garden Area

Hello,

I live in Ojai and work for the Ojai Music Festival. I have been to Love Social Cafe many times and greatly enjoy their back garden area. It would be nice if they could continue to use it for their restaurant. I can't attend the meeting tonight but I'd like to submit this as a public comment.

Thank you, Kathryn Carlson

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Christy Hunter

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:37 AM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Social Cafe

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support Love Social Cafe in continuing the use of their back garden area. I think that it is crucial for any restaurant in town to have ample outdoor seating due to many people still do not feel comfortable or safe eating inside with others. Covid is not over. I myself do not feel comfortable eating inside with people I do not know. I also am still wearing my mask in all indoor public places and businesses. I will not eat or drink somewhere that does not have comfortable outside seating. That being said, I also support Felicia and Sean in their business and their message, Love is Greater than Everything.

I have known Felicia and Sean for some many years now and I have always seen that they want to serve the community and bring something that the community needs - love, connection, and community. I also think that it is important to support our local people in their local business(es), especially when they are there for the locals. There are not many businesses downtown that are for the locals any more. Please don't make it harder for a small business owned by long-time locals to exist and flourish. We need to think about what is best for our town and community - support the locals.

I would like to wrap this up with the hours of operation, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Those are reasonable hours. They close at 2:00! This business is not disruptive to the surrounding community. It is not loud. Please vote to allow Love Social Cafe to be able to use their back garden permanently. It is a wonderful space for friends, family, and strangers to meet up. Let's build community, not dismantle it!

With Love, Christy Hunter

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Richard Camp  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:33 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social Cafe

Dear Shari, et. al.,

I would very much like to offer my wholehearted support of Sean and Felicia Mason's request that they be allowed to continue to use the designated area adjacent to their Love Social Cafe. As a patron of the Cafe, I find it a soothing place to sip my coffee, either in conjunction with doing some writing or by enjoying the soothing respite that the space provides. It is one of several places in the community where people can, indeed, commune, whether with other friends or business acquaintances or simply by communing with the natural outdoors.

I understand that this extra space was granted during the pandemic, and that decisions have been revisited since the end of the pandemic. Well, as we all know there is no end to the pandemic as yet. Variants are rearing their ugly heads sometimes quicker than they can be discovered, so vigilance still needs to be considered. Also, as was the case with other places, this space does not interfere with sidewalks or parking spaces and, it actually seems to be organic to the Cafe, because the Masons have added lovely, welcoming touches to the area.

I do hope you consider extending Sean and Felicia's permit. Not just for them, but for many Ojaians.

Best regards,

Richard Camp  
Artistic Director  
Ojai Performing Arts Theater

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** ilona saari  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** FLove Social Cafe's permit

To: Shari Herbruck

Recently I've learned that Sean and Felicia Mason may loose their permit for their outdoor back 'garden' dining to their wonderful Lo>e Social Cafe. After two years of dreadful isolation and the struggles local restaurants have faced to stay alive, it seems wrong to return that back space back into an empty lot again. Covid is on the rise and outdoor dining is imperative for our restaurants to stay open. The Masons' plans for this additional seating is exactly what Ojaians need. A place to come together and be with friends in a safe environment.

Their tasteful choices for design and their belief and expressions of love and caring add so much to our community, I would be quite upset to lose this space for yet another vacant lot that serves no purpose to anyone.

We need to support those who are giving so much time and effort to our wonderful valley and not hurt them.

Regards,

ilonia saari

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Leslie Bouche  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Cafe permit for Garden area

Hello Ojai Planning Commission and City Council, Shari Herbruck,

I would like to ask you to approve the use of the Garden area at Love Cafe for seating for patrons.

We are long time residents of Ojai Valley and we frequently have coffee or meals at Love Cafe, especially because of their outdoor seating with the option to distance ourselves comfortably in the Garden area when necessary. Please do not make it harder for all of us to keep ourselves safe and healthy in the current situation.

The pandemic is NOT over, and this is not the time to make it harder for everyone to be safe. Restricting use of outdoor areas makes it more difficult for us local residents to support and patronize local businesses - and i know that is not the City Council's intention.

We love living in our Valley, and it is important to us to keep Ojai a vibrant community with successful active locally owned businesses and services.

Be careful, please!!!!  
Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Leslie Bouche

Local business owner  
Member of Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce Member of the Rotary Club of Ojai

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Tressa Berman

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:33 AM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Social Cafe Save the Garden!

Dear Shari and Members of the Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing from the Love Social Cafe Garden area to ask you -- no beg you -- as a Council and Commission, to regrant the use permit fro this important and magical space. It is important because during the ongoing pandemic it provides a supportive space for eating, socializing, and for those who still "work-from-home," an opportunity to work and feel that we have colleagues and co-workers in the space. The unique set-up is also one of the few places to sit outside in comfort in the heat of our protracted summer months, and just about everything about the Garden is a positive contribution and outcome for the community - not to mention the support of the local business! It was not disclosed why the permit may be withheld, but I can't think of any good reason. So please please do not withhold the Conditional Use Permit.

Thank you,

Tressa Berman, Ph.D.

Ventura County business owner  
and Ojai neighborhood resident

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

From: Bret Bradigan  
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 6:23 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social Cafe's permit

Hello Planners:

Sean and Felicia Mason are dedicated community members with Ojai's best interests at heart. Their plans for additional seating in the back garden are exactly what Ojai needs after two dreadful and isolated years; a place where we can all come together and enjoy each other's company.

Having known them for decades, I am certain that this project will be tasteful, elegant and a much-valued addition to our public spaces. Please grant them their permit and allow them to continue adding value to our community. The people of Ojai need this. We do not need yet another vacant lot.

Best Bret Bradigan

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Nitaña De Hato Rey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 9:56 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Cc:** admin@nosovita.com  
**Subject:** Support Love Social Cafe

Dear Ojai Planning Commission:

As an Ojai resident I value our locally owned businesses that enhance the quality of life in our small and very special town. Love Social Café serves as a centrally located spot that not only provides coffees, teas, and delicious food but also a place to build community. They host outdoor markets featuring local artisans, writers, and budding entrepreneurs and organize open mic nights for all to share the experience of live music, poetry, and song. Love Social Café helps to reduce the isolation so many have struggled with during the pandemic. Humans are social beings that need togetherness and need places to gather.

Love Social Café is an establishment has been bringing people together in a safe outdoor setting and their back garden area helps them to do that.

**I respectfully request that you permit Love Social Café to extend their Conditional Use Permit for their back garden area.** As a community we need to support our small businesses that make a positive impact in our town. This has been a very tough time for small businesses and it is not over. Let's not create more barriers for them to stay in business.

Thank you. Respectfully, Nitaña Rey

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

-----Original Message-----

From: amber lennon  
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 4:14 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Conditional use permit for Love Social Cafe

Hi Shari,

We are reaching out in regards to the city's consideration of a conditional use permit renewal for Love Social Café. We are concerned to hear that the City may not grant a continuation of their permit.

We would hope our city supports small businesses, especially during this unprecedented time of economic hardship? The outdoor space at Love Café is a quiet refuge in our bustling town, a beautiful place where individuals can come to connect, work and enjoy the cafe's wonderful food and beverages. The outdoor space also allows the business to easily comply with ever-changing Covid safety regulations and therefore provide a sense of safety for patrons while making sure they can keep their doors open and their employees paid.

We encourage the city's planning commission to stand up for small businesses and approve the conditional use permit for Love Social Café.

Sincerely,  
Diana Syvertson  
Ojai resident and business owner  
&  
Amber Lennon  
Ojai resident

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**Subject:** Livia Salamon

**From:** LiviaSalamon **Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:08 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** [!!Spam]New submission from E-Mail Shari Herbruck

**Name**

Livia Salamon

**Email**

**Subject**

Love restaurant

**Message**

Please approve their permit

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** lisa

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:05 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Social Cafe

Hi Shari,

Heather Stobo and I at the Porch Gallery are writing in support of Love Social Cafe's being granted their CUP to keep their garden seating. We think they are a wonderful, community minded business loved and supported by many patrons.

Businesses in Ojai need all the help and support they can get in these very challenging times, especially in these last few years.

Thank you for letting the City Planning Commission know about our views for tonight's meeting.

Lisa Casoni

Heather Stobo

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Nutmeg's OjaiHouse

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:10 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Planning Comm. Mtg 7/20/22

Hi Shari,

I have a comment on Discussion Item 4 tonight:

I think the garden seating at Love Social Cafe is a good addition to Ojai.

The idea of Poetry Readings, Acoustic Music and Game Nights sounds great, and not too disruptive.

The only issue I see is the gravel ground cover, pavers and wood curb, they are not ADA compatible and do present a trip hazard.

Lighting would help with that, but maybe there's an alternative, like rubber mats that could be hosed off and help with noise, etc.

Overall it is a delightful seating area, off the street, and lets people enjoy our lovely days and evenings. It is a great use of the space.

Good luck to all.

Meg Goodwin

Nutmeg's Ojai House

Ojai

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Café

**From:** Michelle Harris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:02 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Cc:** admin@nosovita.com  
**Subject:** LOVE Social Cafe

Dear Ms. Herbruck,

I am writing to PLEAD with you and the Planning Commission to allow Love Social Cafe to KEEP THE GARDEN area open for us, the community of Ojai!!

I feel safer to be outdoors at my favorite coffee spot and the garden area is of great benefit to this town. I've been involved in several volunteer groups (which also benefit our community) and the back garden at Love Social has been our "go-to" meeting spot since it's in the OPEN AIR and we can SAFELY gather without worrying about Covid & its current variants.

Additionally, it is an area of the Cafe where I can bring my pup while I visit with friends or entertain out of town guests and we are away from the other patrons on the patio area.

**PLEASE allow Love Social to continue to use the Garden area as a safe place for us local residents to gather.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Michelle Harris

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**Subject:**

RE: I Support Love Social Cafe Patio CUP

**From:** vanessa keating

**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 8:40 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** I Support Love Social Cafe Patio CUP

Dear Ms Herbruck.

I am writing you in support of the CUP for Love Social Cafe's back Patio.

As a resident of the valley for the past decade, I have been enjoying events and the bar at this location since it's inception.

As a local, this has been a hub for me - I have networked for my business, introduced (or recommended) countless visitors, and met many people who I now consider dear friends.

The business was a huge support to many during the Thomas Fire as well as through the Pandemic - I enjoy supporting their business, as do many locals - sometimes it's difficult to be a patron with their limited seating. The much needed addition of the back patio has helped there be social distance AND space for the supporting community to be patrons.

Keeping the expanded space, helps beautify downtown Ojai, as well as provide a safe space where locals can meet up, in a relaxed atmosphere to support the location and the community support they provide. This is a place for like-minded people to meet, enjoy space with their families as well as visitors to our valley.

Simply put, there is no other coffee house for the community to gather and interact in these special ways. It would be unfortunate to no longer be able to enjoy this outdoor nature space in our valley.

I trust that you will consider the needs and wants of the community while reviewing future CUP for this location - for us, this is one of the hearts of our community.

Respectfully,

Vanessa Keating

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Vanessa Keating | Evolve Creative  
Experiential Strategist | Creative | Consultant

*"The modalities of awakened doing are ACCEPTANCE, ENJOYMENT, and ENTHUSIASM. Each one represents a certain vibrational frequency of consciousness. You need to be vigilant to make sure that one of them operates whenever you are engaged in doing anything at all – from the most simple task to the most complex."*  
~ Eckhart Tolle

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Tanya Faw Foster  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 9:45 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Save Love Social's back patio

Hi Shari,

Ojai resident (homeowner) Tanya Foster here. I want to show my support for the Love Social back garden area. It's an asset to our community and a great place for locals and visitors to go and feel somewhat safe from covid in an open air situation.

I'd like to show my support for extending their CUP.

thanks!  
Tanya Foster

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Shannon McNeil

**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2022 3:07 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Fwd: Save Love Social Cafe!

Please approve Loves permit for their back garden!

Love is such a special place and has so many different types enjoying the beautiful garden space while eating their epic breakfast burritos.

We came to love 2x in our 3 day visit from San Francisco, so Love is a great relaxing spot for visitors (thanks to the outdoor space).

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **What are you creating today?** <[messages+f2z19qd5ye6xv@squaremktg.com](mailto:messages+f2z19qd5ye6xv@squaremktg.com)>

Date: Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 15:02

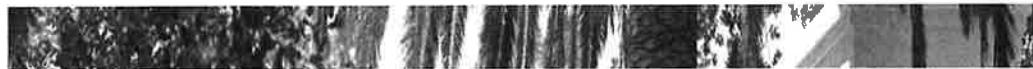
Subject: Save Love Social Cafe!

To: Shannon McNeil

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Have questions? Reply to this email and we'll respond as soon as possible.

**SAVE LOVE!**





## **What Happened:**

Our pending Conditional Use Permit application for use of our back Garden area (pictured above) may NOT be approved.

The Garden area has become critical to our recovery from the 2020-2021 pandemic losses, it's a place for quiet enjoyment, and a safe environment to connect with one another.

The pandemic is not over. The impact socially and economically has not even begun to be realized in our small town.

**As it stands now, the use of our Garden area is imperative to the future of our business.**

## How Can You Help?

### TAKE ACTION:

1. Attend the Planning Commission and City Council meetings at which this is discussed. The July 20 Planning Commission is at 6 p.m. at Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura St. The meeting can be attended via Zoom or livestream. To find the link, visit: <https://ojai.ca.gov/planning-commission-agenda-and-reports>
2. Email public comments to Shari Herbruck at City Hall at [shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov](mailto:shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov).
3. Write a letter of recommendation and drop it off at Love Social Cafe (205 N Signal St, Ojai, CA 93023) or bring to 7/20 Council Meeting.



What are you creating today?  
205 N. Signal Street, OJAI, CA, 93023

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Cynthia Louise Grier

**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2022 1:03 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** In support of Love Social Cafe Garden area

I would like to see the conditional use permit for Love Social Cafe extended and made permanent.

The pandemic is far from over, and going forward into the future, we need these outdoor spaces to be a permanent part of our community. There are many of us who have health conditions that make it too risky to eat at indoor establishments, whether the threat is covid or some other flu virus. Part of the reason I moved to Ojai 14 years ago was to live in a city that offered healthy alternatives.

I think the use of Love Social Cafe's space is a far better purpose than some of the other possibilities. As far as retaining open lot sizes, that is something the city will be forced to reconsider as our world changes. Please remain flexible and open-minded.

Sincere regards,

Cynthia Louise Grier

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Grist  
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 12:09 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Cc:  
Subject: Love Social Cafe

Dear Planning Commission and City Council:

I am writing to encourage you to approve a CUP for continued use of the Back Garden as a part of Love Social Cafe.

I often settle in for a coffee in the cafe's Back Garden and find it to be a very quiet, peaceful and safe environment, particularly given the ongoing pandemic and our need to be outdoors and keep a distance from one another. I have never heard it to be a loud or raucous location. Customers there speak softly and are respectful of all the neighbors nearby, as well as the birds and squirrels in the trees.

The Love staff goes out of their way to walk orders out to customers, not using any amplified sound of any sort.

Please give the cafe the CUP to continue using the well-built Back Garden as part of the cafe.

Sincerely, Julie Grist

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Phelps  
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 10:39 AM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social extension

Hello,

I'm a 50 year resident of Ojai and have seen this property go through many owners, changes, phases.

Currently the owners were given permission to use a large eyesore and largely abandoned piece of property to extend their outdoor service space. That permission is now threatened by a notice of non-renewal of their permit.

For the sake of the viability of their business and to better and more beautifully serve the needs of Ojai patrons by providing a larger safe outdoor space for eating (especially in Covid time), I would like to urge you to extend their permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Niles

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Annalisa Krueger]  
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2022 7:10 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social Cafe

Dear Shari Herbruck,

Last weekend a good friend and I took a trip to Ojai for the first time. It was a beautiful getaway and a much needed break from our daily routines, pandemic burnout, & mom duties.

Ojai is a lovely place! We enjoyed the view from each place we stopped. The Love Social Cafe we visited twice for breakfast. We loved sitting in the back garden area, sipping our coffees and enjoying the outdoors. The space is perfect for social distancing while enjoying a delicious breakfast and coffee. Please consider extending their back garden permit because the pandemic isn't over yet & perhaps it can be a permit space.

Sincerely, Annalisa

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**Subject:** RE: Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Victoria Larson  
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2022 3:51 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social Cafe

Please approve the conditional use permit for Love Social Cafe outdoor area.  
There are so few places like this to enjoy during these stressful times. Thanks

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Lisa Love

**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 2:30 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Save the Garden at Lo>e Social Cafe

Dear Shari,

Today I went to Lo>e Social Cafe, one of my favorite places as a local of Ojai, to go and relax, as well as have a drink or breakfast.

I was saddened and shocked to hear the Garden area may be removed. This garden area is the ONLY place in all of Ojai and the surrounding areas where someone from the area can relax outdoors in a pleasant and peaceful setting, work on a computer, have something to drink or eat, meet with locals, and enjoy being downtown. Java Joe's? Not the same amount of tables or space. Full of Beans? Gone and the new Starbucks means you sit outside with drive-through traffic going around you. Papa Lennon's? Not downtown Ojai, not the same vibe. Other restaurants downtown? They are designed for you to be eating there, not to just relax and socialize.

The loss of the Garden would be a HUGH loss to the community. I also don't understand why it is considered being removed.

EVERYTIME I have been there (several times a month at least), people are all very quiet, talking in a quiet voice, working on a computer, listening to their earpods, or reading a book.

Who is bothered by people being there? Really? There are only two homes nearby. People would still be using the parking lot. There would still be a minimum amount of noise. Dogs will still bark and people in a parking lot (I was told someone complained about their dog barking when they heard or sensed people so they were keeping their dog inside).

Also the PLACE IS ONLY OPEN FROM 8 - 2 pm!!

Is it really fair for maybe a few neighbors to assert their wishes over the wishes of lots of other people to be so intolerant in supposedly "spiritual Ojai" that they would push "Lo>e" out the door? Hundreds of people benefit from this place. Mostly locals.

Please, please, please.... let the Garden remain where it is. Covid is still amongst us even. Los Angeles is even thinking of putting back mask mandates. Please do not allow the Garden to be closed.

Sincerely,

Lisa Love  
Oak View

Former resident at Creekside Condos for many years. Business owner of Peaceful Self Retreats in Ojai.

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Miller [mailto:[shivanijanem@gmail.com](mailto:shivanijanem@gmail.com)]

Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2022 11:49 AM

To: Shari Herbruck <[shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov](mailto:shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov)>

Subject: Save Love cafe

Dear Shari

Please support saving Love cafe.

This cafe environment is such a joy and beautiful contribution to our community. I have never visited and not seen this seating area being used and I would hate to see this cafe closed for no reason. This seating area is not being used for anything else. It is of my opinion that it should remain just as is . Let's protect our local businesses.

Thank you

In gratitude Shivani Jane Miller

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Margo Haas

**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 11:12 AM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Cafe Back Garden area permit - vote yes!

Please grant the permanent use of the Love Cafe \back garden area. They are a wonderful business who gives so much back to the community (not to mention they have great coffee, tea and food) and I choose their site frequently to meet friends and also as a lovely setting for business meetings. I'm a long time resident of Ojai (almost 30 years) and that site has been a restaurant/coffee shop for many years - well preceding the present ownership by the Masons. They have expanded and improved the site for the benefit of all.

Ojai is wonderful for many reasons; certainly one of them is because local business owners can operate and provide a service not only to the tourists but the residents as well. To deprive the Masons of the use of their Garden area would be a huge error in judgment by the Ojai Planning Commission. Support our local businesses who make Ojai the unique and wonderful place it is.

Please vote yes on their conditional Use Permit.

Thank you. Margo Haas

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Zachary Smith

**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 9:07 AM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** support for Love Social

Hi Shari,

I am writing in support of the conditional use permit for Love Social's garden patio. I live in the neighborhood at Summer and North Ventura. Love Social is a treasure for the good food, fun staff, and enchanting environment. I eat there 2-3 times per week and always with visitors. Throughout the pandemic's highs and lows, the outdoor garden patio has been a respite, place to social distance while dining, and spot to keep young kids entertained and away from the road and crowds. It also seems to allow the restaurant to manage the volume of diners. It is a part of what makes Love Social so special.

Thank you,

Megan Smith

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Nick George  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 8:45 AM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Conditional use permit for Love Cafe

Dear Shari,

My name is Nick George and I am an Ojai Resident writing on behalf of the Conditional Use Permit for the Garden Area of Love Cafe in Ojai.

It has come to our attention that this permit application is up for renewal and may not be approved.

My family and I just wanted to share what an important and safe space the back garden of Love is and has been to our family. A Spacious outside area where we can meet and connect with others safely during Covid while supporting our favorite cafe has been nourishing and vital to our sense of community and mental health.

Since the Pandemic is still a factor in our lives and choices We so hope that this space will continue to be available to love cafe use and to us as a community.

Thank you for your time!

The George family,

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

**From:** C.C. Barnes  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love cafe back garden

Let it be known by a concerned citizen to the Ojai city council LOVE CAFE should keep their permit for the back garden!  
Vital to the community & their business!

Thank you

C.C.Barnes

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Jerry Dunn  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social Cafe garden CUP -- public comment for July 20 meeting

July 15, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please approve the Conditional Use Permit to allow the Love Social Cafe to use its back garden for customers.

1) The dedicated local owners suffered severe economic hardship during the pandemic. They absolutely require the garden area so they can serve enough customers to start recovering their losses and make a profit.

Any reasonable person would agree that this is not the time to deny a longtime local business the lifeline it needs to survive.

2) The Love Social Cafe provides jobs for local residents and tax revenue to the city. These will be lost if the cafe has to close.

3) The garden also serves the community. It is a place to gather, meet new people, and enjoy quiet and fresh air — without compromising social distancing.

4) Finally, if any Council Member, or a member's family, has a possible economic or property interest in this issue, that member should make this clear to the community before voting.

Thank you for paying attention to the feelings of the community you represent.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Camarillo Dunn, Jr.  
Merry Dunn  
(Ojai city residents of 35 years)

Our pending Conditional Use Permit application for use of our back Garden area (pictured above) may NOT be approved.

The Garden area has become critical to our recovery from the 2020-2021 pandemic losses, it's a place for quiet enjoyment, and a safe environment to connect with one another.

The pandemic is not over. The impact socially and economically has not even begun to be realized in our small town.

**As it stands now, the use of our Garden area is imperative to the future of our business.**

---

**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Tamara Davis  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 5:06 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social's backyard

Hello,

I read that Love Social Cafe might lose access to their backyard garden space, which is surprising. Love Social does so much for the Ojai community by hosting markets, vendors, open mic nights, and more. I've attended book club meetings back there, written on the colorful chalk board, met friends, dined, enjoyed coffee, read a book, practiced dance steps, and we all enjoy the outdoor space. I understand that the City Council will discuss this on 7/20, but I can't make the meeting.

The pandemic is not over. Personally, my family and I still don't usually eat inside restaurants.

I hope that this extension of the cafe remains without issue,  
Tamara

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**To:** Barbara Fields  
**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Barbara Fields  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 4:45 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck <shari.herbruck@ojai.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** What are you creating today?  
**Subject:** !? Love Social Cafe

Dear Shan:

I am writing to support the renewal of the Conditional Use Permit application for the back Garden area of Love Social Cafe,

We recently moved to Ojai from our long term residence in Santa Barbara. It was immediately apparent to us that spaces such as this, as well as the genuine (not economically motivated) community-minded spirit it facilitates, are what sets Ojai apart from other cities in southern and central California. We were surprised and delighted when we first discovered the cafe; in fact, we truly believed that this space must be a *social service* offered in partnership by the City of Ojai, itself. What a breath of fresh air in our inescapably commercialized communities!

It would be shortsighted for the City to eliminate the Cafe's access to this space. Ojai's abundant tourism and loyal local support, alike, can be directly attributed to spaces and practices that are different and welcoming, not cookie-cutter and impersonal. If tourists and locals are attracted to what remains of the venues offering intimate charm and the opportunity for building community, they/we will certainly back away if Ojai eliminates them through civic technicalities and revocation of permits. And we'll take our \$\$ with us.

Please consider the broader implications to the City's health and well-being that will ultimately show up by stripping it's welcoming spaces away, piece by piece. We're here, and tourists come, because of the unique nooks and crannies like Love Social Cafe. If it becomes the same as anywhere else, there's little incentive to make the drive.

Sincerely, Barbara Fields

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gayle Bertsch  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Social Cafe

Please help Love Social have their permit for their back garden. Their business is an asset to our community.  
Let's help our local businesses thrive.

Thank you.

Gayle Bertsch

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**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Cafe

**From:** Joan Peters  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 3:51 PM  
**To:** Shari Herbruck  
**Subject:** Love Cafe

Dear Ms. Herbruck,

I'm chagrinned to learn that Love Cafe might not be granted a permit to serve at the back of their parking lot under those lovely trees. I've lunched there many times, loving the privacy, quiet and sweetness of the spot. What harm can it do to allow people to lunch there? Ojai should help, not hinder people from running their businesses. I hope you will help Love Cafe.

Yours truly, Joan Peters

---

**Subject:** Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

From: Anne Ford  
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 3:08 PM  
To: Shari Herbruck  
Subject: Love Social

Hi, Shari,

I caught wind of a complaint regarding Love Social's back patio (on social media), but the post didn't specify what the complaint pertained to, it only mentioned that one resident had a complaint and now the situation was "up for review".

I frequent Love Social and value the opportunity to enjoy the back patio, where the tables are farther apart and shaded by trees, where comfortable couches are available and one can have quiet conversations away from the piped-in music played in the cafe area. Although small children sometimes play and babble in that area, their voices blend with the bucolic environment and has never seemed disruptive to me, and I am quite sensitive to "noise". It is a "quiet zone" for collecting one's thoughts when one is alone (and I'm often grabbing a bite by myself). I hope that the person who complained can visit the back patio area to appreciate what a welcome quiet environment this area provides for the cafe's customers. Maybe if the person objects to any "noise" (that may have happened at one time or another) they could visit themselves and perhaps realize that their experience was probably the exception instead of the norm.

And Love Social can protect the vibe of their back patio by posting a "This is a quiet zone, please respect our neighbors." sign as one enters that area, just to remind people to keep their conversations at a low tone and not let their children raise their voices.

It would be such a shame to destroy this peaceful patio area because of an occasional incident. Maybe if the sign was posted, everyone could see how well that would work...before this lovely area is taken away.

Thanks for listening.

Anne Ford, Ojai resident.

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**Subject:**

Public Comment | Love Social Cafe

**From:** Mariah Green

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 12:31 PM

**To:** Shari Herbruck

**Subject:** Love Social Cafe

Hello Shari,

I am emailing you to send my personal comments about Love Social Cafe's garden space. They do SO much for the community and it would be such a shame for so many if this space was taken away from them. They help support other local businesses with that space like the markets for small business owners which brings even more growth to your community. That's why I think this space is so important to them, they bring and help build a POSITIVE COMMUNITY.

Thank you, Mariah