November 9, 2022

Hon. Adrienne Adams
Speaker, New York City Council
165-90 Baisley Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11434

RE: Intro. 31-A Permanent Open Restaurants

Dear Speaker Adams:

I understand that the New York City Council is poised to vote on a bill, Intro. 31-A, that will create a Permanent Open Restaurants program. The bill would implement this enormously consequential program affecting neighborhoods throughout the city without public hearings, opportunity for public comment, and Community Board review.

This organization urges you to not to proceed with a vote on this legislation without the above-mentioned opportunities for public input and review. This is a complicated program with far-reaching implications for the use of limited public space in neighborhoods throughout our city. There are a diversity of opinions about when, where, and how allowing this program to become permanent is appropriate or in the best interests of the city as a whole, as well as particular communities. Holding public hearings, allowing for public input, and including community board review will make for a better outcome, and one which will engender more buy-in from the public.

Please take such actions before a final vote on this bill is taken in the Council.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: City Councilmember Erik Bottcher
    City Councilmember Christopher Marte
    City Councilmember Carlina Rivera