



[EXTERNAL] Support for Approval of LU 0047-2026 Le Dive!

From Adam Barrett [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/17/2026 4:57 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of Le Dive's sidewalk dining application.

Outdoor dining has become an important part of New York City's culture and community. Establishments like Le Dive contribute not only to the vibrancy of our neighborhoods, but also to the local economy by creating jobs, attracting foot traffic, and supporting nearby businesses. We don't need more space for cars/parking. It makes the city worse.

Le Dive's outdoor setup enhances the streetscape, making the area more welcoming and lively for both residents and visitors. Sidewalk cafés like this encourage community interaction and make the neighborhood feel safer and more active, especially during evening hours.

I respectfully urge the Council to approve this application and allow Le Dive to continue operating its outdoor dining space. Preserving well-managed sidewalk cafés is essential to maintaining the character and economic health of our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Adam Barrett
LES resident on Madison St.



[EXTERNAL] Le Dive Sidewalk Cafe

From Amanda Liu [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/17/2026 11:28 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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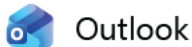
Dear Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises,

I am writing to offer written testimony FOR my support on the LE DIVE SIDEWALK CAFE.

My family and I have lived on Essex and Hester since the 1970s. We have seen the neighborhood change and develop dramatically. While it may seem counterintuitive as most folks who have such deep roots in a neighborhood tend to be against change, I welcome it. Especially with businesses that are shaping culture and livelihoods in our community for the better.

Le Dive has been a welcome neighbor that has shaped the spirit of that corner, particularly with the outdoor dining program. The outdoor seating is a necessary third place, one so many New Yorkers look for given how small our living space is. When the weather is nice, having the option of dining outdoors in my neighborhood significantly improves my quality of life. I am proud that we can create a sense of community, a place where I can see my neighbors and visitors relax and enjoy this neighborhood. I am a proud resident within CB3 and when I walk by the closed streets I am happy to see others enjoying themselves. It makes me happy to see others happy and enjoying what my neighborhood has to offer in a safe and contained way.

Thank you for the consideration,
Amanda Liu



[EXTERNAL] Le Dive Land Use Cafe Permit Hearing

From Anne Wenniger [REDACTED]
Date Sat 3/21/2026 10:58 AM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>; [REDACTED]

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Hello,

I am a resident of the building in which Clandestino and Le Dive are both located. I have lived there for 40+ years and remember when our neighborhood was a multiethnic enclave of working families that was generally quiet and respectful. It was awesome!

I am urging you to deny Le Dive the Land Use Cafe permit at 37 Canal Street.

Since the two bars (Le Dive and Clandestino) started serving people on the street and on the sidewalk (apparently without a sidewalk permit at first), it has been terrible at night. Try having to get up at 5:00 am to get ready for work and being unable to go to bed at a reasonable time because there are people drinking and carrying on just below our windows.

Because we all live on a triangle, every sound is amplified by bouncing off the buildings. It's so terrible, I can't even tell you. I can't open the windows for fresh air at night and we have to sleep with an air conditioner running even when it is not needed. And this costs money.

Le Dive is the worst offender of all the restaurants on the street. I have watched from above as they allowed people to continue drinking after the time that they were supposed to clear the street for the night. Clandestino will have their tables put away sometimes earlier than required, but definitely no Le Dive. In addition, they do not make any real effort to allow for the flow of foot traffic, making it hard to walk down the street, our street.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Wenniger

Good Afternoon,

My name is Charlie Goldensohn and I am a voting member of Community Board 3. I am also a member of the Transportation Committee for CB3. I live on the Lower East Side.

I am writing in favor of Le Dive's sidewalk dining application, for 37 Canal Street, 10002, which is set to be discussed at the March 18th Zoning and Franchises hearing.

I believe that would be a huge mistake for our neighborhood to not approve Le Dive's application. Le Dive is a vital small business and gathering space in our community where neighbors, families, creatives, and friends come together. Its sidewalk seating contributes meaningfully to the character and energy of our streets, making them feel more vibrant, social, and safe.

Outdoor dining has become an essential part of Lower Manhattan's identity, and establishments like Le Dive play a major role in that. We should be doing everything we can to support small, local businesses that bring people together. Not putting them at risk.

It's also important to recognize that Le Dive's sidewalk café directly supports the livelihoods of servers, bussers, cooks, and other staff. These are people who are not only workers, but members of our community. Eliminating this seating would put those jobs in jeopardy.

We should be actively working to make our neighborhood more fun, more liveable, and more pedestrian centric. I believe that's what this will do.

Sincerely,
Charlie Goldensohn



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] LeDive

From David Flaherty <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 3/18/2026 11:09 AM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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I support LeDives outdoor cafe.

David Flaherty

Sent from iPhone while driving Way too fast in a stolen car.



[EXTERNAL] Written testimony against Le Dive Sidewalk Cafe Revocable Consent - subcommittee meeting tomorrow

From Elizabeth Zalman [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/17/2026 6:07 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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Dear Subcommittee Members.

My name is Elizabeth Zalman, long-time resident of [REDACTED]. Please accept this as written testimony AGAINST Le Dive's application for a sidewalk cafe (as found [here](#)).

Here is the list of experiences I have had with Le Dive's outdoor seating and non-compliance as a neighbor:

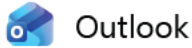
- There is no pathway through the sidewalk on either Canal Street nor Ludlow Street (Le Dive is on a corner). The owners and the restaurant's workers flout the requirement for a path. It is impossible for me to walk my dog.
- The restaurant consistently leaves trash, food, and cups out in tree beds out front of the unit.
- Staff line up restaurant attendees behind a purple velvet rope, blocking the sidewalk and street.
- The restaurant sells wine. It is a wine bar. Their clientele leave drunk, at best, and the area is an absolute shit show.

Any and all complaints have fallen on deaf ears. The owner claims to be an upstanding member of the neighborhood and his restaurant's comportation shows that's not the case.

By allowing a sidewalk cafe, it will make Canal Street, an already tough thoroughfare, even worse to navigate. Dogs, babies, families... it's just not possible to walk in front of this restaurant during the summer as-is.

Please do NOT allow Le Dive's application to go through. It's yet another land grab from a restaurant that claims to build "community" but actually destroys it in the process.

Thanks for reading,
Liz Zalman



[EXTERNAL] OPPOSE: Le Dive Sidewalk Cafe Revocable Consent

From SPaCE BA [REDACTED]
Date Thu 3/19/2026 4:39 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Emma Culbert and I am a 20 year resident of the Lower East Side and the president of the SPaCE Block Association and a direct neighbor of Le Dive. I am urging you to deny the Land Use cafe permit for Le Dive, located at 37 Canal Street.

In July 2021, our association met with Jon Neidich in good faith. Since then, Le Dive has systematically ignored every neighborhood stipulation. It is important to recognize how they achieved their outdoor dining footprint by "triple-dipping" into three separate city programs. They utilized a Land Use permit for sidewalk seating, the Dine Out NYC program for parking lane sheds, and the Open Streets program on Canal Street for excessive seating in the traffic lane.

Since their Land Use permit was revoked, the physical ADA violations, namely blocked curb cuts and the obstructed 36-inch walkways, have finally cleared. However, this is not a sign of "improved management." It is a sign of enforced compliance. Based on three years of constant 311 complaints and blatant disregard for the Smoke-Free Air Act and Open Container laws, we have zero reason to believe this business will remain diligent if those 18 seats are returned.

The impact of this footprint is already egregious, with 97 outdoor seats dwarfing their 74-person indoor capacity. This saturation is about to become a crisis as the owners take over the location across the street at 89 Canal Street. Granting this permit now would effectively hand over a residential intersection to a single operator who has proven they cannot, or will not, manage their current footprint responsibly.

The DOT and NYPD are understaffed, and "bad actors" like Le Dive have exploited that lack of enforcement at the expense of our elderly, non-English speaking neighbors. Do not reward three years of neighborhood harassment by returning a privilege they have already abused. Please deny this application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emma Culbert



[EXTERNAL] Support for Le Dive-Outdoor Dining

From Ilana Novick [REDACTED] >
Date Tue 3/17/2026 5:12 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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Outdoor dining shouldn't be part of our 2020 past, but a key part of our post-COVID future. Open streets build community, raise profits for businesses, and generally improve the quality of life on the Lower East Side. All of the businesses on this block should have it.

Thank you!

Ilana Novick
10002



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Support for approval of LU 0047-2026 / Le Dive revocable consent application

From Kiyana Salkeld [REDACTED]

Date Wed 3/18/2026 8:40 AM

To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Kiyana, I live on the Lower East Side. Today, I'm testifying in favor of Le Dive's sidewalk seating, which is one of the only ways immunocompromised New Yorkers and other folks at high risk of complications from COVID and flu can safely enjoy New York's restaurants.

The subtext of the opposition to outdoor dining is that it was a Covid-era program, but because Covid is "over" the program should be curtailed and our streets should be returned to cars. But Covid is still *very real* for many New Yorkers, and if you're concerned about ADA violations, please remember that disability can take many forms — I'm *very* concerned that being high-risk or immunocompromised has been *entirely* overlooked in this conversation. It's not lost on me that the city's *own rules* for in-person testimony include covid safety protocols like masking that **don't** seem to be widely adopted or enforced, a visible reminder of how vulnerable people are further excluded from public life.

Vanishing outdoor dining options are particularly troubling when:

- Kathy Hochul is [was pushing for a statewide mask ban](#)
- Vaccine uptake is terrible
- [COVID cases surge over the summer](#)
- The CDC [cut billions in](#) funds to help state health departments respond to covid
- And [Gothamist reported that 500,000 New Yorkers have long covid](#), which can be so debilitating it prevents them from being able to work and support themselves.

Outdoor dining also plays a role in stopping the spread of the flu. Last year, flu cases were at their [highest levels since 2020](#) and there were at least [23 pediatric deaths statewide this season](#), nine of which were here in the city.

Proper ventilation is crucial to preventing airborne illness, but the city has not invested in the infrastructure needed to make indoor dining safer. And most outdoor options aren't even available year-round, meaning that if you're vulnerable, you can't safely or easily participate in a huge piece of public and social life for half the year. **Sidewalk seating, like Le Dive's, is one of the only year-round options available to us.**

I also want to add that Le Dive — and the other businesses on Canal — have been excellent neighbors. Last summer I dined — or attempted to dine (weather / available seating permitting) — outdoors every weekend since the program started and here's what I observed:

- Cervo's has added "no smoking" signs to every outdoor table
- Little Canal servers tell you the moment you sit down that you're not allowed to smoke
- I've watched Le Dive staffers tell smokers to move away from open windows and to keep the sidewalks clear.

- And I've even seen Cervo's staffers repeatedly step in to prevent loitering and loud music on the open streets—even when these individuals aren't patronizing their restaurant—a responsibility that I believe has been unfairly foisted upon them

Le Dive's staff has been nothing but respectful, even when faced with harassment from members of the community who oppose outdoor dining and call the police on black and brown staffers.

Please reinstate Le Dive's sidewalk seating. It is a vital resource for the immunocompromised.

Best,

Kiyana Salkeld





[EXTERNAL] Support for approval of Le Dive revocable consent application

From Michael Gohari <michaelgohari@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 3/17/2026 4:18 PM

To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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Hello NY council,

Le Dive and the surrounding restaurants including its sidewalk dining bring a vibrancy and charm to our neighborhood that cannot be overlooked. It also allows for increased foot traffic to all local businesses in the area. Outdoor dining is also key for immunocompromised people that need fresh air dining. To take all of those positives away would be a travesty. Please consider approving Le Dives sidewalk access.

Thank you,
Michael Gohari
LES resident



[EXTERNAL] OPPOSE: Le Dive Sidewalk Cafe Revocable Consent

From Neighbors OnCanal <neighborsoncanal@gmail.com>

Date Fri 3/20/2026 9:43 PM

To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

Cc Marte, Christopher <CMarte@council.nyc.gov>; [REDACTED]

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Hello,

My name is Sandy Ley and I am writing on behalf of the community group, [Neighbors on Canal](#), which formed in response to the [disastrous implementation of Open Streets](#) on Canal.

Le Dive is by far the worst actor on the Open Street, with 100+ seats on a small corner of Canal and Ludlow. We can honestly say that the Open Street would actually be bearable, if not for Le Dive.

The owners of Le Dive have proven that they believe they are above the law, consistently violating local and state laws, and showing reckless disregard for their neighbors. We have seen behavior such as

- [operating past outside seating hours](#)
- employing [velvet ropes for lines to their late night DJ parties](#), [playing music at astounding decibels](#) with their windows open
- [allowing guests to drink on while standing the sidewalks](#)
- holding [DJ parties in their basement](#) in violation of their liquor license
- racking up [numerous 311 complaints](#).

Rather than following the rules and simply engaging with us neighbors, Le Dive has chosen to [misled the public](#), hire a political strategist to launch a [pr smear campaign](#), and tried [bribery under the guise of helping low income residents](#) who can't sleep due to their noise.

To understand how real New Yorkers feel about Le Dive and their outdoor seating, I implore you to [read the comments section of this NY Times article](#), detailing the previous sidewalk seating call up.

Please do not reward bad actors by allowing them to re-expand their footprint.

Thanks,

neighborsoncanal.com

Urge the DOT to adopt the [Canal Street Community Working Plan!](#)



[EXTERNAL] Written Testimony: Zoning, Le Dive, Manhattan (D 2650119000 SWM)

From Weng Yee Mooi [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/17/2026 4:55 PM
To Land Use Testimony <landusetestimony@council.nyc.gov>

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Dear Members of the Council,

I am writing as **a resident of District 1 under Council Member Christopher Marte, and I strongly oppose Le Dive's application for an outdoor cafe.**

I have lived in the Lower East Side for many years, from a time when this area was still widely understood as part of Chinatown. Over that time, I have witnessed firsthand the rapid pace of gentrification and the ways in which long-standing communities are being displaced or diminished. Applications like this are not just about tables and chairs—they reflect broader changes in how public space is used and who it is for.

I also understand that a prior application for sidewalk cafe use at this location was already rejected by the Council. Given that history, it is important to consider whether any of the underlying concerns have been meaningfully addressed.

Based on my experience, they have not. **Le Dive has consistently been loud and rowdy, often disregarding Canal Street Open Streets hours and crowding the sidewalks more generally, contributing to late-night noise and disruption.** Their patrons frequently spill onto public space, and **there have been repeated instances of disorderly behavior, including littering and public vomiting.** This creates an environment that feels **disrespectful to residents and passersby, and incompatible with the needs of a mixed, residential neighborhood.**

Public sidewalk space should remain safe, accessible, and welcoming for everyone. Streets should not be privatized in ways that reduce the quality of life for those who live here.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Council to **deny this application.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Weng Yee Mooi