

**From:** [Aly Serrano](#) on behalf of [Town Council](#)  
**To:** [Town Council & Mayor](#)  
**Cc:** [Wayne Bergman](#); [Jmurphey@townofpalmbeach.com](mailto:Jmurphey@townofpalmbeach.com); [Kelly Churney](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Coyo Taco 12-Restaurant Chain Closes Palm Beach Branch  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 08, 2021 2:56:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [CoyoTacoChainClosesPBbranch.pdf](#)

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**From:** Simon Taylor <staylor@simontaylorplc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** Danielle Hickox Moore; Bobbie Lindsay; Margaret Zeidman; Lew Crampton; Julie Araskog; Ted Cooney  
**Cc:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Coyo Taco 12-Restaurant Chain Closes Palm Beach Branch

\*\*\*\*\*Note: This email was sent from a source external to the Town of Palm Beach. Links or attachments should not be accessed unless expected from a trusted source. Additionally, all requests for information or changes to Town records should be verified for authenticity.\*\*\*\*\*

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council Members of Palm Beach

I would like to thank Palm Beach Town Council members for listening to residents and not allowing the restaurant chain Coyo Taco to change its agreement with the Town, in order to enable the chain to operate its DJ and late night music business model adjacent to residential areas in Palm Beach. I understand from a Palm Beach Daily News article that the 12-restaurant chain has now closed its branch in Palm Beach (see copy of the June 2, 2021 article attached).

We can all enjoy the many taquerias in cities, towns and byways around the country that succeed with the quality and variety of their food. But Coyo Taco's "fast casual" chain relied on promoting "what our brand is famous for at our other locations", according to co-founder Alan Drummond, who is quoted in the Daily News article stating, "Our brand thrives on having a D.J. and live music at night." I wish Mr. Drummond and his restaurant "brand" co-founders Sven Vogtland and Scott Linquist well, but I am glad that the Town Council has vindicated a principle articulated by some Council members, as described in my prior email below and my June 4, 2020 letter to the Council: The principle that businesses should not be allowed to assume that their agreements with the Town, and opposition by residents, can be treated as temporary annoyances, because a business and its attorneys can simply return to the Council as many times as necessary to procure changes that the business wants.

I assume that the application by Coyo Taco to amend its Declaration of Use Agreement with the Town, which was on the Town Council's June 9, 2021 Agenda, will be withdrawn, now that the Palm Beach branch of the restaurant chain has closed.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Simon Taylor

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Simon Taylor <staylor@simontaylorplc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:03:32 PM PDT  
**Subject:** Council Should Reject Repeated Re-Application by Coyo Taco for DJ Late-Night Adjacent to

Residences (Application Z-19-00211)

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council Members of Palm Beach

Subject: Repeated Application for Three-Times-a-Week DJ for Coyo Taco (Zoning Case No. Z-19-00211)

I hope you have been well and safe.

I am sending you an updated letter opposing the repeated attempt by the Coyo Taco restaurant to pack people into a bar adjacent to numerous residences in Palm Beach, three nights a week, drawing a crowd with late-night DJs that have been opposed by residents and previously voted down by the Town Council. Please see my letter attached.

Coyo Taco is using the familiar and tiresome tactic of seeking to anchor the debate before the Council at the pro-development, pro-business extreme, thereby putting pressure on critical thinkers on the Council to vote in favor of the requested zoning exception in order to avoid being accused of not being “reasonable” and not “going along” with various aggressive interests. In this case, fortunately, some Town Council members have voted on principle against the repeated attempts by Coyo Taco to wear down the Council and negate residents’ opposition.

We can all enjoy restaurants around the country that serve tacos and other cuisines, drawing plenty of customers with food that frequently is creative and may offer choices on the healthier end of the food spectrum. When a restaurant fails to attract diners on the strength of its food alone, however, it is not the responsibility of the Town Council to save a struggling restaurant by waiving zoning requirements to allow a restaurant to use music and a packed venue to attract a partying crowd to a residential area.

Along with other residents, I again urge the Council to vote against the repeated application by Coyo Taco for a zoning Special Exception to enable late-night DJs at Coyo Taco, adjacent to nearby residences.

Sincerely,

Simon Taylor, Town resident

# Palm Beach Daily News

NEWS

## Coyo Taco closes its doors in Palm Beach

**M.M. Cloutier** Special to the Daily News

Published 3:51 p.m. ET Jun. 2, 2021 | Updated 4:22 p.m. ET Jun. 2, 2021

Dogged by a mixed reception from the outset, Coyo Taco in Palm Beach closed Friday, unable to make it solely as a taco joint without the live music and D.J. the taqueria is known for at its other locations.

Months of slower business during the pandemic dealt the final blow, Alan Drummond, co-founder of the Miami-born Coyo Taco brand, told the Daily News Wednesday.

“COVID further put a damper on what we’d hoped to achieve in Palm Beach,” said Drummond.

“The hardest part was not being able to do (in Palm Beach) what our brand is famous for at our other locations. We’re more than a taco place with fresh ingredients. Our brand thrives on having a D.J. and live music at night and curating an atmosphere people love, but we weren’t allowed to do that in Palm Beach.”

Drummond said he and his partners had hoped the town would “eventually” allow them to add live music and disk jockeys three nights a week in Coyo’s “soundproofed” back bar, but that never happened.

“Many people really liked Coyo Taco — I love the duck tacos,” said Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Laurel Baker. “The food was delicious, the place was comfortable and the people who worked there were always pleasant. I’m sad to see it go.”

Coyo Taco, known for fast-casual Mexican cuisine with quality ingredients, debuted in Royal Poinciana Plaza’s southwest corner in March 2018 after the Town Council approved the restaurant, but nixed live music or D.J.s.

Residents had expressed concerns over “rowdy” noise and lines of partyers out the door. Others said that was conjecture. “I think this is a really cool addition to this town,” then Landmarks Commission chairman Ted Cooney said during a meeting discussion. Cooney is now a council member.



The council allowed Coyo to serve until midnight Sunday to Thursday and 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Coyo's grand opening drew a crowd of Palm Beachers and others sipping margaritas and tasting housemade guacamole and tacos piled with cochinita pibil (slow roasted pork), pulpo (octopus) and al pastor chicken.

The taqueria then was among a slew of new "best-in-class tenants" Royal Poinciana Plaza lease-holder Up Markets signed on for the plaza after completing a buzzed-about year-long revitalization project at the 1950s-developed property.

Through a New York-based public relations firm, the plaza's management declined to comment about Coyo's closure.

The Coyo Taco brand, founded in 2015 by Drummond and business partners Sven Vogtland and chef Scott Linquist, takes its name and Bohemian inspiration from Mexico City's Coyoacan borough, the birthplace of artist Frida Kahlo.

There are now 12 Coyo locations, including in Paris and Portugal. Its first location opened in Miami's Wynwood District and quickly became known for its live-music scene and disc jockeys. Two other Miami locations followed before Coyo's partners decided to branch out in Palm Beach.

It's "too bad" about Coyo's closure, Virginia Philip, owner of an eponymous plaza wine and spirits shop, said in an email. "We enjoyed partnering with them on events," including a recent May 5 tequila tasting.

Coyo did make inroads toward getting live music and disc jockeys three nights a week on premises. In November 2019, the council considered the issue, but there were concerns about reports of underage drinking at the taqueria.

In September 2019, two Coyo bartenders were charged with selling alcohol to a person under the legal age.

Still, the council voted 3-2 in favor of allowing Coyo a D.J. one night a week, with the proviso that the issue would be revisited later, possibly to expand to two nights a week with a D.J. in spring of 2020.

That's when the pandemic hit "and on top of everything else, it was too much," Drummond said.