




INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 15, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Outdoor Dining Districts Program Update (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

At the May 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council approved a motion to create or extend temporary outdoor patios until the fall of 2020 to support Hamilton's culinary scene. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant negative impacts on Hamilton's restaurant sector. When restaurants are permitted by the Province of Ontario to reopen, it is expected that public health restrictions will limit seating capacities which will continue to have adverse impacts on the viability of many restaurants. Therefore, through this motion Council allowed for additional seating capacity outdoors with the intention to provide positive impacts on the restaurant industry.

Through this direction, a cross-departmental staff team was created to develop an Outdoor Dining Districts program. This includes corresponding guidelines, criteria and applications that support the temporary outdoor expansion of restaurant establishments across Hamilton. This program will streamline the application process and work towards an expedited review through a team that includes the Special Events Advisory Team as well as staff from the Tourism & Culture, Economic Development, Transportation Planning & Parking, Building and Licensing & By-Law Services Divisions.

The staff team has undergone consultations with the City's Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and interested restaurant owners to identify appropriate locations where City streets or parking areas could temporarily be converted into shared Outdoor Dining Districts, as well as private parking areas of commercial plaza and malls where permitted by the applicable zoning. The costs for the establishment of Outdoor Dining Districts on City streets or City parking lots/spaces for temporary road closure permits, Book 7 traffic management measures, and parking meter charges, will be waived

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SUBJECT: Committee Meetings (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2

utilizing funds from the City's Economic Development Reserve, with all other costs to be borne by the applicants.

Staff began accepting formal applications to the Outdoor Dining Districts on Monday June 8, 2020. Applicants are required to complete the appropriate application based on their location, submit a site map outlining patio dimensions including placement of tables to accommodate 2 metre physical distancing and plans respecting staffing, cleanliness and sanitation practices for the operation of the outdoor dining area. Information on this program can be accessed at www.hamilton.ca/outdoordiningdistricts.

As of Friday, June 12, 2020 the Outdoor Dining Districts team had received inquiries from 54 properties across Hamilton with 20 formal applications for participation in the program submitted.

The Outdoor Dining Districts team is committed to working with any interested businesses or BIAs to take a direct and customized approach appropriate to their needs. The work with each applicant will focus on expanding their use into an adjacent outdoor space and will consider the operation of participating businesses while also ensuring minimal impact of surrounding commercial properties so as to not impede delivery and pick up vehicles or pedestrian access to any business.

If you have any questions pertaining to the above, please direct them to Julia Davis by email or at ext. 2632.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.