



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: October 13, 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 9/22/20 BY COUNCILOR ROURKE
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE PROPER DEPARTMENT DRAFT A
COUNCIL VOTE WHICH ALLOWS FOR THE CURRENT COVID OUTDOOR
DINING/SHOPPING GUIDELINES TO BECOME A PERMANENT SEASONAL
ORDINANCE

The temporary outdoor seating program has been incredibly successful and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is exploring ways and means to enact a permanent streetery ordinance. On tonight's Agenda, there is a VOTE for the City Council's consideration to extend the current temporary outdoor seating program to December 1, 2020. The existing temporary outdoor seating program is set to expire on October 31, 2020. This extension will grant the Law Department, Department of Public Works, and Department of Planning and Development adequate time to address operations and maintenance issues related to a year-round outdoor program as well as engage with relevant business owners and stakeholders. This includes evaluating issues related to the purchase and storage of jersey barriers, vinyl coverings, outdoor heating equipment, snow removal, and ongoing maintenance and cleanliness of the space. The one month extension will also provide the City and businesses to evaluate resident interest in outdoor dining in cooler months.

DPD is working on a permanent ordinance that will include a streamlined permitting process, design guidelines, fee schedule, and operations and maintenance requirements. Without a concrete timeline for a COVID-19 treatment and/or vaccine, it may be in the City's best interest to continue the temporary ordinance until such time as Governor Baker lifts the state of emergency. There is a flexibility under the current state of emergency that will not be applicable in a post-COVID environment.

CM/ns

cc: Christine McCall, Director of Economic Development