

# **City of Laingsburg**

## **Social District Application & Management and Maintenance Plan**

**Adopted March 4, 2025**

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# Commons Areas Management and Maintenance Plan

## Introduction

On July 1, 2020, Michigan Public Act 124 of 2020 was signed into law, allowing local governments to establish 'Social Districts' within their jurisdictions. These Social Districts allow for 'common areas' where two or more contiguous licensed establishments (i.e., bars, distilleries, breweries, restaurants, tasting rooms) may sell alcoholic beverages in designated containers to be taken into the area for consumption.

## Intent

The City of Laingsburg ("City"), in coordination with the City of Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority intends to utilize this state law and establish a Social District in an effort to support local restaurants, bars, and similar food service businesses within the City of Laingsburg.

## Application

This packet, and the management and maintenance plan contained within, is specifically designed to apply to, and ensure compliance with, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) guidelines and Public Act 58 of 1998 as amended by Public Act 124 of 2020. Plan amendments may be considered at any time but must comply with all requirements for Commons Areas as prescribed in state statute.

## Potential Qualified Licensees

As the Social District is established, the City will welcome businesses to participate once they apply for and receive their Social District Permit from the MLCC. Potential participating liquor license holders who are considered 'Qualified Licensees' within the proposed Social District are listed below:

Twilligers Tavern      Tank's Tavern  
Two Dog Tavern

## Social District Permits

A Qualified Licensee must first be approved by the City before applying for a Social District Permit through the MLCC. Permits can be applied for through the City by the owner or an authorized representative thereof by filling out the City of Laingsburg Social District Permit Application. In order to be approved by the City, a licensee will have to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City of Laingsburg, the Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority as additional insureds. Approved licensees will be required to renew their permit with the City annually by January 1st. After approval, the owner or authorized representative thereof must file Form LLC-208 with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

## Management

The City of Laingsburg Social District (also "Social District") will be created and operated by the City of Laingsburg, in coordination with the DDA Partnership. The Social

District's management and maintenance will also be supported by the City of Laingsburg Department of Public Safety and the Laingsburg Public Works Department.

## Operations

The City of Laingsburg Social District will operate year-round during the following hours: Monday through Sunday, from 12:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

## District Boundaries and Commons area

**Exhibit A** depicts the social district boundary, the commons area, and location of qualifying licensees.

**Exhibit B** includes the names and addresses of all qualified licensees within the social district.

## Barriers, Structures, and Furnishings

All barriers, structures, and furnishings, temporary or otherwise, utilized as part of the City of Laingsburg Social District's Commons Area must be approved by the City of Laingsburg and shall:

- Not impede drivers, pedestrians, or wheelchair users.
- Not block sight visibility of remaining parking lot aisles or intersections.
- Not impede emergency vehicle and personnel access; and
- Not prevent access to nearby businesses or homes.

Tables, chairs, and temporary barriers may be permitted to remain outdoors during closed hours but must be secured. Service items, decorations, cleaning materials and equipment and other easily stored items must be removed from the area at the end of each business day. Solid barriers, if incorporated, may remain for the duration of the permitted timeframe, and must be approved by the City of Laingsburg Department of Public Safety Building or Code Official. Tents and other temporary shelter structures must be approved by a City of Laingsburg Council and Department of Public prior to incorporation.

The DDA will maintain any common-area seating, tables, and related furnishings that have been purchased and deployed within the Social District. Seating, tables, and related furnishings that have been provided by individual Social District Permit Holders shall be the sole responsibility of the Social District Permit Holders and must comply with ADA accessibility requirements. Under certain circumstances, Social District Permit holders may use public space for seating, tables, and related furnishings. Interested Social District Permit holders must contact the DDA for necessary reviews and approvals. Related furnishings are defined as planters, fencing, spatial delineators or other elements that are deployed as part of a seating expansion.

## District Logo and Signage

The City of Laingsburg Social District will utilize a modification of the City of Laingsburg logo approved by the City Council to designate its approved rules, boundaries, and containers. As required by the MLCC, the general boundaries of the Social District will be clearly marked with signage.

Other signage may be needed to indicate rules for the district, such as:

- No alcohol beyond this point;
- Each cup is one-time use;
- Dispose of your cup properly;
- District Hours of Operation;
- Drinks only available at participating “social district” establishments; and
- Do not take your cup from one establishment into another;
- Do not take your cup outside the boundaries of the Social District;
- Do not litter, dispose of trash in a trash receptacle.

## Beverage Containers and Rules of Use

Per PA 124 of 2020, the following regulations apply to containers within the Social District:

1. The container prominently displays the social district permittee’s trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the social district permittee under the social district permittee’s on-premises license;
2. The container prominently displays a logo or some other mark that is unique to the commons area;
3. The container is not glass and if possible, will be recyclable; and
4. The container has a liquid capacity that does not exceed 16 ounces.

## COVID-19 Protocols and Precautions

While the Pandemic is over currently, a similar situation could occur again. All individuals (patrons), organizations, and individuals participating in the City of Laingsburg Social District must comply with all relevant public health guidance, including, but not limited to, reduced capacity and social distancing, if applicable. As in all other circumstances, failure by a licensee to comply with current State of Michigan rules and regulations may result in the suspension or revocation of the licensee’s liquor license.

## Financing

Licensees are also required to pay for their permit from the MLCC (\$250 permit fee + \$70 inspection fee). The City of Laingsburg will assist in coordination between the City, Downtown Development Authority, other supporters and permitted establishments to minimize additional financial investments borne by the business community for signage, stickers, structures, barriers, and furnishings.

## Marketing and Promotion

Marketing for the Social District will be done by the City of Laingsburg and or DDA, Expenses related to marketing and promotion shall be offset with financing from the Downtown Development Authority and any voluntary supporters.

## Security and Enforcement

Security and enforcement in the Social District will be done by the City of Laingsburg Department of Public Safety. Periodic reports will be provided to the City to document any security issues that arise.

## Waste Removal and Sanitation

The City of Laingsburg requires that trash receptacles be located strategically throughout the Common Areas, including one waste receptacle in front of each participating licensee. Participating licensees shall also be responsible for daily litter pick up surrounding their establishment and any sites, surfaces, structures, or furnishings they may provide as part of the social district.

## Temporary Commons Areas & Special Events

Events planned within the social district may request a temporary commons area and special hours of operation in conjunction with the planned event. Temporary commons areas may occur on public streets if the street is closed to all vehicle traffic with the exception of emergency vehicles. Temporary commons areas, special hours of operation, and requests for additional waste management services will be received and approved by the City in conjunction with the standard even application.

## Existing Outdoor Dining and Consumption

The establishment of the Commons Areas in accordance with the new MLCC provisions in no way negates the ability of businesses to establish sidewalk cafes for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption in accordance with the pre-existing MLCC guidelines and City ordinances. The Commons Areas are intended to be supplemental and in addition to these previous provisions.

## Revocation

The City of Laingsburg may revoke the Social District designation by an affirmative vote of its City Council if it determines that the commons area threatens the health, safety, or welfare of the public or has become a public nuisance. Per MLCC rules, the City must hold at least one (1) public hearing on the proposed revocation before revoking the designation. The City shall give notice as required under the open meetings act of the time and place of the public hearing before the public hearing and shall file the designation or revocation of the Social District with the MLCC.

## Attachments:

Resolution of Approval

City of Laingsburg Social District Application

Social District Participation Agreement

Social District Map

MLCC Forms and Documentation