

EXECUTIVE BRIEF REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: March 25, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

TITLE:

Temporary Downtown Sidewalk Cafe Guidelines

SUMMARY:

Amid the global pandemic in 2020, many businesses were forced to close their doors in the interest of public safety. Once restaurants were allowed to reopen at reduced capacity, the City made the decision to allow dining areas to expand in to the right-of-way. This program only consists of the north/south roadways between Dixie Hwy and Federal, as Lake Ave and Lucerne Ave are owned by FDOT.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

In 2020, COVID-19 decimated local economies. Once the Governor issued an Executive Order allowing restaurants to reopen at 50% capacity, the City began looking in to options to help where possible. The initial intent was to help local restaurants maintain social distance per CDC guidelines by allowing their tables to expand into the City right-of-way. Temporary Outdoor Dining Guidelines and a modified Sidewalk Cafe Permit were established to begin this process.

As the months roll on and we continue to progress through different phases of this pandemic, needs/wants continue to change as well. Because of these changes, there is now a need to modify the existing Temporary Outdoor Dining Guidelines and Permit. Examples of items that need to be addressed / clarified and staff recommendations are as follows:

- Temporary use of parking spaces in the City right-of-way for outdoor dining. Excluding retail and those not food/beverage related, businesses downtown fall in to the following categories:
 - A. Restaurant
 - B. Restaurant w/ Bar
 - C. Bar
 - D. Nightclub
 - E. Café/Coffee Shop

While there have been multiple requests for outdoor seating from businesses falling in to every category above, the initial intent when the program began was for A and B only. Due to current downtown parking constraints, staff recommends continuation of this practice to allow use of parking spaces in the City right-of-way for outdoor dining solely for A and B.

- Maximum parking spaces allowed (both angled and parallel). While originally based on business frontage, due to current downtown parking constraints staff recommends two (2) parking spaces per business.
- Defined timeframe for this temporary use of City right-of-way. Given the current stage of the pandemic, staff recommends suspension of this temporary program on May 31st, 2021. Should the program extend beyond this date, a square footage cost should be implemented just as with a standard Sidewalk Café Permit.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove staff recommendations for the temporary downtown sidewalk café guidelines.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A