

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5752 September 15, 2020 Public Hearing

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5752: Public Hearing on Er 20C-17 to Temporarily Allow of-way Use by Businesses to N	Private Parking and Right-	☑ Discussion Only☐ Action Needed:☐ Motion☐ Ordinance
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Conduct public hearing and re utilization of ordinance allows	•	☐ Resolution
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager		
STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, EOC Small Business Liaison		
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson	Craig Reynolds	
EXHIBITS:	1. Emergency Ordinance No. 20C-17		
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Provide emergency response services related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.		
	AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE \$ n/a

AMOUNT BUDGETED \$ n/a

APPROPRIATION REQUIRED \$ n/a

SUMMARY

Emergency Ordinance No. 20C-17 enables local eating and drinking establishments to use Right-of-Way and private parking to expand outdoor seating. The ordinance assists businesses impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency in operating under the Safe Start Washington phased guidelines for reopening. On Tuesday night, the City Council will hold a public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance No. 20C-17. Pursuant to RCW 35A.63.220 and RCW 36.70A.390, a public hearing must be scheduled within 60 days of passing the emergency ordinance.

BACKGROUND

On August 4, 2020, the City Council unanimously passed Emergency Ordinance No. 20C-17 (see Exhibit 1), which temporarily allows existing Mercer Island eating and drinking establishments the use of public Right-of-Way and private parking space to expand their outdoor footprint during the Safe Start Washington plan. The emergency ordinance was adopted in response to additional limitations placed on these businesses in Phase 2 of the Safe Start plan, which were described in AB 5737, as well as to requests for additional City assistance that were made by local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and small business advocates.

To date, one local business has successfully applied for and obtained the permit to repurpose Right-of-Way parking for outdoor dining, and additional businesses have contacted City staff for guidance related to

repurposing private parking. Staff also continue to reach out to eating and drinking establishments to encourage them to pursue this assistance option as well as identify additional tactics to support them into the fall and winter months.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Conduct Public Hearing for Emergency Ordinance No. 20C-17 to Temporarily Allow Private Parking and Right-of-way Use by Businesses to Meet Safe Start Guidelines.
- 2. Receive staff update on businesses that have utilized the ordinance allowances and additional plans for assisting existing eating and drinking establishments.