



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2021

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Mary Rose Rutikanga, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Direction on Urgency Ordinance 868, Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Application and Permit Program

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff regarding Urgency Ordinance 868, Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Application and Permit Program.

DISCUSSION

On May 14, 2020, the City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance 868, Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Application and Permit Program, to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to allow for additional occupancy to restaurants, wineries, breweries or bars to operate outdoors and only in compliance with State and County guidelines.

The Urgency Ordinance established a permit framework for qualifying businesses to operate outdoors until certain restrictions were lifted at the State and County levels and required restaurants, wineries, breweries and bars that seek to serve food or beverages onsite and outdoors to apply for and obtain a special temporary outdoor operations permit from the City Administrator.

Several Sonora businesses have applied for and have been permitted to operate additional occupancy on City sidewalks and streets, mostly notably, on Washington and Linoberg Streets since the Urgency Ordinance was adopted.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is currently preparing to move beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15th. On that date, all industries may return to usual operations, with limited exceptions for mega events. After June 15th, there will be no capacity limitations or physical distancing restrictions. The CDPH also updated its Guidance for Face Coverings for June 15th, when masks are expected to only be required on public transportation and in youth, healthcare, and high-risk congregate settings.

It is unclear at this time if on June 15th the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will rescind their Expansion Permit program which authorizes qualified businesses on-site consumption of those alcoholic beverages for which the licensee has on-sale privileges; on property that is adjacent to the licensed premises and that is under the control of the licensee.

It is staff's recommendation that the City Council repeal Urgency Ordinance 868 on or after June 15, 2021 as the conditionals that allow for Urgency Ordinance 868 will no longer exist after June 15, 2021.

Staff is requesting the City Council provide direction on the repealing of Urgency Ordinance 868.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- Urgency Ordinance 868