



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2020

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Mary Rose Rutikanga, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Amend Urgency Ordinance 868 to include bar and health center establishments

RECOMMENDATION

Consideration to approve Amended Urgency Ordinance 868 to include bar and health center establishments that may apply for a Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Permit during the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

DISCUSSION

On May 14, 2020 the City Council approved Urgency Ordinance 868 in response to the County of Tuolumne moving into Stage 2 with Attestation, which modified the Governor's Executive Order to allow for restaurants, wineries and breweries to serve food and beverages onsite.

The Urgency Ordinance permitted a framework for qualifying businesses to apply for a special temporary outdoor operations permit by submitting an application to the City Administrator. Any restaurant, winery, or brewery applying for a special temporary outdoor operations permit may, in connection with its application for a temporary outdoor operations permit, request a street closure or a reduction or a modification to the business parking space requirement to allow the serving of food or beverages outdoors.

At the time, the Council opted not to allow for bars to be included in the list of establishments that may apply for a Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Permit. Since that time, the opening and closure guidelines have evolved from the State, however bars still have not been allowed to be open indoors for operations creating an economic burden on those businesses. Staff have also received multiple requests from gym and health center owners to move operations to outdoor locations to expand the occupancy of their businesses, as their capacity is largely limited under the COVID-19 guidelines.

On August 18, 2020, the Council directed staff to bring back an Amended Ordinance to include bars, health centers and hair salons as a qualifying business that can apply for a special temporary outdoor operations permit.

However, the State again updated their COVID-19 industry sector guidelines on August 28, 2020 after the direction received from the Council on August 18th. The new modified guidelines allow for hair salons to be open with modifications in all tier sages: yellow, orange, red and purple. At this time staff is recommending that due to this change in industry sector guidelines from the State, hair salons do not need to be included in this Amended Urgency Ordinance.

Staff recommends adoption of Amended Urgency Ordinance 868 to allow for the inclusion of bars and health centers in the City of Sonora to apply for a special temporary outdoor operations permit.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are staff costs associated with COVID-19 business permitting and compliance that needs to be considered when addressing the expansion of a Special Temporary Outdoor Operations Permit.

ATTACHMENTS

- Amended Urgency Ordinance 868 in mark-up version
- Amended Urgency Ordinance 868 Final