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For Immediate Release

Birmingham Expands Outdoor Dining Program

BIRMINGHAM, MI, June 10, 2020 – On Monday, June 8, the Birmingham City Commission approved expanded outdoor dining standards to assist restaurants affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The new standards replace the previous resolution approved on May 11, and provide updated guidelines that allow for new or expanded outdoor dining areas in response to the adoption of the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-99.

Under the Governor’s Executive Order, restaurants may open at 50% capacity to alleviate health concerns by allowing for social distancing. The City’s expanded outdoor dining program allows restaurants to request additional outdoor dining space through October 31, 2020. Restaurants are now permitted to add the number of seats removed from the interior of the restaurant to an outdoor sidewalk, in the on-street parking zone, in a via and/or on private property with approval from the City.

In addition, the Michigan Liquor Licensing Commission has also approved a new limited term outdoor service area program for establishments serving alcoholic beverages through October 31, 2020. The 2020 Limited Permanent Outdoor Service Permission Application allows restaurants to provide or expand outdoor seating areas temporarily to accommodate social distancing guidelines and assist businesses through the pandemic.

“The City is pleased to expand its COVID-19 relief efforts for restaurants given recent changes with liquor control and the growing need for outdoor dining space,” said Birmingham City Manager Joe Valentine. “We’re taking action to accommodate hardships local restaurants face by adopting additional programs to offset their shortfall.”

Establishments seeking temporary changes must submit an Administrative Approval application to the City’s Planning Department. Restaurants may contact the Planning Department for more information regarding the application process at 248-530-1850.

Learn more about the City’s COVID-19 relief initiatives at www.bhamgov.org/covidrelief.

City of Birmingham – A Walkable Community. Visit the city’s web site at www.bhamgov.org.

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