

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: May 13, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. FARR.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER.....

Culinary Scene Support

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is recognized across the country for its outstanding restaurant and culinary scene;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton’s restaurant and food service industry employs over 18,000 people;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the City’s restaurant industry;

WHEREAS it is anticipated that even when restaurants are permitted by the Province to open again, it will likely be with certain public health limitations that limit seating capacities, which would continue to have a negative impact on the viability of many restaurants, especially smaller restaurants; and

WHEREAS allowing for additional seating capacity outdoors could have a significant positive impact on the restaurant industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the City of Hamilton offer the opportunity for local Business Improvement Areas and/or commercial areas that are predominantly restaurants and cafes to create temporary, shared “Outdoor Dining Districts” on City streets or parking areas for Summer/Fall 2020;

That staff in the Economic Development Division consult with all of the City’s BIAs and/or interested restaurant owners to identify appropriate locations where City streets or parking areas could be temporarily converted into shared Outdoor Dining Districts, and that applications for shared Outdoor Dining Districts be accepted and reviewed through the SEAT process;

That any Outdoor Dining District not currently within a BIA have at least two-thirds buy-in from all businesses on the affected block(s) through petition;

That any Outdoor Dining Districts follow all applicable public health requirements, including any COVID-related public health requirements, as well as all applicable Provincial Orders;

That through the SEAT application process, staff ensure no negative impacts with respect to pedestrian safety, accessibility, emergency services, public transit, private accesses and other issues that are normally addressed through the SEAT review process;

That costs for the establishment of Outdoor Dining Districts on City streets or City parking lots/spaces for temporary road closure permits, Book 7 traffic management measures, and parking meter charges, be waived and/or refunded, utilizing funds from the City's Economic Development Reserve, with all other costs to be born by the applicants;

That the applicants be responsible for the management and operation of any approved Outdoor Dining Districts, including ensuring that they are staffed at all times when open, to ensure proper use, cleaning and physical distancing; and

That the City also support the establishment of temporary outdoor patios in the private parking areas of commercial plazas and malls, where permitted by the applicable zoning, and that the City waive any requirement for site plan review for such locations and waive enforcement of any zoning provisions related to parking supply, provided the patios are created as temporary uses with no permanent fixtures and no alterations that require a Building Permit.