



Commerce City

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Council Communication

File Number: 23-062

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Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: City Council

File Type: Administrative
Business

Follow-Up on Council Request for Outdoor Service Areas

Summary and Background Information:

The Pilot Outdoor Services Program expands on the now expired Temporary Outdoor Dining Service Area Permit that was established in 2020 as way for business to remain operational during the pandemic. The Commerce City Blue Ribbon Economic Development Advisory Committee suggested that the City reimplement the permit to allow businesses to once again offer outdoor services to their patrons. The Pilot Program that will be presented tonight makes a more permanent program for the City, while still leaving room for Council and staff to review and further improve upon the service in five years. In five years, any program changes can be made and then the program can be made permanent in a new ordinance. At that time, Council can choose to extend any existing permits that business have acquired for outdoor services.

In addition to giving businesses the opportunity to provide outdoor seating and services to patrons, the Pilot Program will:

- Preserve mobility along the sidewalk for all
- Ensure patios are accessible for persons with disabilities, and driver sight lines remain unobstructed
- Maintain emergency access
- Activate the Right-of-Way with additional spaces for people and social gathering
- Contribute to walkable and visually interesting streets
- Promote flexibility for a range of patio options
- Keep the City competitive with other front range cities

Several City departments were involved in drafting this program for the Council's consideration. Staff is prepared to write an ordinance based on this presentation and Council's feedback, and intends to bring an ordinance back before Council as soon as possible.

Staff Responsible (Department Head): Jason Rogers, City Manager

Staff Member Presenting: Jenna Hahn, Executive Management Analyst

Financial Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Provide feedback to staff regarding the presented Pilot Outdoor Services Program

Suggested Motion: Motion to direct staff to draft an Ordinance activating the Pilot Outdoor Services Program