



Legislation Text

File #: Ord 2298, **Version:** 1

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SERVICE AREAS FOR RESTAURANTS AND BARS IN THE CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2281

Summary and Background Information:

This Ordinance will extend the current temporary outdoor service area permit system through 4/30/2021 with some modifications. It repeals and replaces Ordinance 2282, which authorized the creation of the initial permit system.

Ordinance 2282, passed by Council on June 1, 2020, authorized the creation of a temporary permit system to allow bars and restaurants to temporarily expand their outdoor service areas. These no-cost permits expire on October 31st, 2020; the new Ordinance will expand the permit program to April 30, 2021. Expanded outdoor dining areas enable restaurants to increase space to reach capacity while incorporating social distancing and sanitation practices. Restaurants must still operate in accordance with all relevant local, county, state, and federal health orders. Additionally, staff reviews compliance, safety, and parking.

Seven Commerce City bars and restaurants received permits and have expanded outdoor operations as a result of this initial program. Staff, including the permit manager created by Ordinance 2282, were able to achieve an under-24 hour turnaround on these applications.

Importantly, the new ordinance contains regulations for the use of tents, space heaters, and other equipment. While not in use now, these features will be key to continued operations during the winter months. Due to the increased fire, safety, and building code requirements regarding these features, staff review will take longer; Staff has a target of a 72-hour turnaround time for review by the permit manager, building safety, and the fire district. Applicants must provide contact information, current and expanded capacity, a site map, and other information necessary for staff's review.

Additionally, the new ordinance extends the hours of operation allowed under the permit to 11:00 pm.

Staff Responsible (Department Head): Jason Rogers

Staff Member Presenting: Jason Rogers

Financial Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Pass the ordinance

Suggested Motion: Motion to approve the ordinance on first reading by Council as seated.