

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER  
AUGUST 11, 2020

**Commission Members Participating:** Walter Shea, Chairman  
Anthony Vigliotti, Commissioner  
Barbara Haller, Commissioner

**Commission Members Absent:** None

**Staff Participating:** Stephen Rolle, Planning & Regulatory Services  
Lt. James Johnson Worcester Police Department  
Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department  
Deborah Steele, Planning & Regulatory Services

**\*\*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Worcester License Commission will be conducted via remote participation.**

Call to Order – 10:00 am

New Business

1. Outdoor Dining Forum
2. Outdoor Dining overview
3. Regulations and requirements that govern Outdoor Dining
4. Worcester's Temporary Outdoor Dining Program
5. Public comment and discussion • Commission comments and recommendations

Mr. Rolle gave an overview of the program to date and how many temporary permits have been issued. The outdoor program began in the beginning of June as so far ninety-four restaurants have applied and received approval.

**Public Comment**

Jean Luc Wittner of Suzette Creperie & Café on Water Street stated that he would like to see the outdoor dining become permanent and stated that it is a big concern in industry now that the current program ends in November.

Paul Barber from Flying Rhino stated that he appreciated what the city has done so far in helping out getting the outdoor program up and running but has concern about what happens when fall and winter come as people have shown preference for outdoor dining and there are ways to continue to do outdoor dining through colder months but that requires investments so the restaurants would like to know as soon as possible if the temporary dining program going to extend past November in order to make that investment.

Lindsi Mailer from East Hampton Mayor's Office stated that they are also looking into ways in order to expand outdoor areas and asked if anything had been established in Worcester about using adjacent parking lots for outdoor dining. Mr. Rolle stated that they are looking to do that in the future but there are state regulations that would need to be reviewed.

Evenly Danly – Downtown Worcester Improvement District stated that she appreciated that the city did not charge any fees for the program and would like to see the program become permanent.

Mike Kennedy from Center of Living and Working stated that he appreciated the program but the city has to make sure that the outdoor areas are ADA accessible.

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The Commission members asked if any complaints had been received. Lt. Johnson stated that they have not received any.

The Commission stated that they do have concern that some of these outdoor areas are turning into outdoor bars and expressed concern of how noise would be handled if program became permanent.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.