



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR
ORDINANCE EXTENDING EXPANDED OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM THROUGH
2022**

Approval extends the program that supports outdoor dining

CHICAGO – Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, along with Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) Commissioner Kenneth J. Meyer, Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) Commissioner Gia Biagi and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) Commissioner Erin Harkey announced the Chicago City Council approval of the ordinance to extend the Expanded Outdoor Dining Program. The approval extends the innovative Expanded Outdoor Dining Program through the 2022 calendar year. The program was set to expire on December 31, 2021.

"The Expanded Outdoor Dining Program was implemented during the pandemic to ensure the continued operations of our restaurants while keeping workers and customers safe," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Upon seeing the success of this program, I'm delighted to extend this effort through 2022 to continue supporting our hospitality and dining industries with safe, inviting dining spaces throughout our neighborhoods."

The Expanded Outdoor Dining program was created in June 2020 and is administered by BACP, CDOT and DCASE. This multi-department collaboration brings outdoor options quickly, responsibly and in a manner that adds to the character of a neighborhood. The program was created to offer safe outdoor dining options and support the City's restaurant industry during the COVID-19 pandemic and has now become a unique way to stimulate outdoor dining year-round.

"The one-year extension of the Expanded Outdoor Dining program allows businesses to continue operating outdoors and allows customers to continue enjoying outdoor dining options," said BACP Commissioner Kenneth J. Meyer. "The program creates safe outdoor dining options and supports the City's hospitality and dining industries, as well as the local economy."



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The Expanded Outdoor Dining Permit allows establishments with valid Retail Food Establishment, Tavern or Consumption on Premises-Incidental Activity liquor licenses to temporarily expand operations into the public way or other private property (i.e., parking lots and open space). The permit is good for up to 180 days, as long as the restaurant follows all rules and guidelines. In 2021, 204 Expanded Outdoor Dining Permits were issued representing 328 establishments, with 100 of those operating on private property throughout the City.

"Outdoor dining became a lifeline for so many of our neighborhoods during the COVID-19 pandemic," said CDOT Commissioner Gia Biagi. "As we continue to recover, we can also transform public spaces and revitalize the public way to support local business districts and communities."

"This is an opportunity to build and cultivate inviting spaces," said DCASE Commissioner Erin Harkey. "Our small businesses are vital to our communities, and we must evolve to meet their business needs."

To learn more about the Expanded Outdoor Dining Permit and to apply, [click here](#).

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