



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 23, 2022

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LIQUOR  
LICENSE**

*The new liquor license will expand options for Chicago's entertainment venues and provide new opportunities for entertainment venue development*

**CHICAGO** – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today announced the Chicago City Council approval to expand outdoor entertainment options for businesses, residents, and visitors by creating an Outdoor Entertainment Venue liquor license. This new license type permits the operation of outdoor concert/entertainment venues by allowing the sale of alcohol and permitting amplified sound outside. The Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP), the City's business licensing department, will require that Outdoor Entertainment Venues also be licensed in accordance with the liquor and amusement codes outlined in the Municipal Code of Chicago. In addition to BACP reviewing the business license applications, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) will review the zoning requirements of proposed locations.

"In every corner of our city, there are incredible entertainment venues and outdoor activations for residents and visitors alike to enjoy," said Mayor Lightfoot. "In order to maintain and enrich our cultural and entertainment sector, I'm proud to work with BACP and offer a new Outdoor Entertainment Venue liquor license."

As a top entertainment destination in the country, Chicago offers residents and visitors some of the best live music and special events in unique and historical entertainment venues. The addition of the new outdoor entertainment venue liquor license will further enrich Chicago's unique entertainment offerings.

"The creation of this new liquor license provides a framework for the City's future cultural and economic growth," said BACP Commissioner Kenneth J. Meyer. "This license is an opportunity for music venue operators to expand into new and historic locations across the city."

Outdoor Entertainment Venues licensees will host entertainment on private property and have an outdoor capacity of at least 3,000 people. Sports stadiums are



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exempt from the Outdoor Entertainment Venue license. An Outdoor Entertainment Venue will be required to obtain an Outdoor Entertainment Venue liquor license, as well as a Public Place of Amusement License from the City. The Morton Salt Shed, located at 1357 N. Elston Ave., is the first prospective Outdoor Entertainment Venue licensee.

"Entertainment venues add value to communities by supporting the local economy through workforce development and commercial corridor vibrancy," said Walter Burnett Jr., 27<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman. "I am proud to have worked with Mayor Lightfoot and city officials to create a license that will expand economic opportunities for our city."

This timely ordinance prepares for the quickly approaching summer season and runway required for prospective licensees to make their applications and conduct build-out of their venues.

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