



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CITY COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE CREATING NEW DINING AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCES AT TASTE OF CHICAGO

Renowned Chefs to Prepare Full Meals for \$40; Seats at Petrillo Music Shell Available for \$25

CHICAGO – Chicago City Council today passed an ordinance that allows patrons at the Taste of Chicago to buy tickets to three-course meals prepared by renowned Chicago chefs as well as seats at the Petrillo Music Shell during evening musical acts. Admission to the festival and 30,000 lawn seats for musical performances and other entertainment stages will continue to be free.

The ordinance allows the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) to charge \$25 for tickets to one of the 3,000 seats at the Petrillo Music Shell and \$40 per patron for a new dining area at Taste called Celebrity Chef du Jour. The Chef du Jour tent will host a sit-down, three-course meal prepared by a noted celebrity chef. Diners may enjoy dinner on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. All Taste attendees may enjoy a cooking demonstration by these noted chefs and may purchase one of the chef's signature items that day at Taste.

The Chefs committed to the Celebrity Chef du Jour are as follows:

- Wednesday, Carlos Gaytan (Mexique)
- Thursday, Tony Mantuano (Spiaggia)
- Friday, Graham Elliot (Graham Elliot)
- Saturday, Stephanie Izard (Girl and the Goat)
- Sunday, Jimmy Bannos Sr. (Heaven on Seven)

“Taste of Chicago will now offer patrons more options for dining and music, while remaining a free event that welcomes people from throughout Chicago and all over the world,” said Mayor Emanuel. “Five of Chicago’s talented chefs will be preparing meals and completing cooking demonstrations, adding a unique experience each day. Music fans will have the opportunity to secure seats to



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headlining musical acts for a nominal cost, and the revenues will help financially support this event without placing a burden on taxpayers.”

City officials expect to raise \$375,000 from ticket sales. During the last three years, the Taste of Chicago has had an operating deficit of \$2.7 million dollars.

“The Chicago Culinary Community has been extremely supportive as we continue to enhance Taste of Chicago,” stated Commissioner Michelle T. Boone. “And each of these chefs will perform a cooking demonstration that everyone can enjoy at our Dominick’s Cooking Corner, in addition to selling one of their signature items throughout the day.”

Information regarding purchasing the concert tickets and the dining experience will be available on the Taste website, www.tasteofchicago.us in mid-May. Headlining acts for each night of the Taste of Chicago will be announced soon. Taste will continue to offer free programming at the Dominick’s Cooking Corner where chefs demonstrate a special recipe, the Bud Light Stage featuring local musical acts and the Family Village with entertainment and activities for children.

Concerts at Taste date back to the original festival held on Michigan Avenue, July 4, 1980 with many local talents performing. Over the years, as the event moved from a one-day to a multiple day festival and into Grant Park, the music line up grew and began to include nationally and internationally performers such as Sheryl Crow, Carlos Santana and Stevie Wonder.

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