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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT INTRODUCES ORDINANCE EXTENDING EXPANDED
OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM THROUGH 2022**

Proposal would extend program that supports outdoor dining

CHICAGO – Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) Acting Commissioner Kenneth Meyer, Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) Commissioner Gia Biagi and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) Acting Commissioner Erin Harkey will introduce an ordinance to extend the Expanded Outdoor Dining Program. Under the proposal, the City would extend the innovative Expanded Outdoor Dining Program through the 2022 calendar year. 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 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 introduce the Expanded Outdoor Dining program to continue support of our hospitality industry 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 extension of the Expanded Outdoor Dining program continues the reimagining of outdoor dining through 2022," said BACP Acting Commissioner Kenneth Meyer. "We've seen the excitement and success surrounding this program and we want to keep it going, both for small businesses and consumers. Chicago's restaurants and



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bars can operate through the winter and start the coming year with a solid option for their patrons.”

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, 179 Expanded Outdoor Dining Permits were issued representing 303 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 Acting 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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