

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*

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Dear Restaurant Owners and Managers,

With restaurants allowed to offer outdoor dining as soon as June 8, 2020, I am writing to let you know the City is ready to assist you in expanding/creating outdoor dining opportunities. We have been working since the beginning of the pandemic to find ways to support our small business community and will continue to explore new ideas to help our fellow Tauntonians during these uncertain and unprecedented times.

I have formed an Open For Business Task Force who has worked hard to expedite the process of providing more outdoor options for restaurants throughout Taunton. The law department, Licensing Commission, City Planner, and Councilor Coute worked in a coordinated effort to quickly create the guidelines and application as allowed by the Baker Administration.

This team, with guidance and requirements for public health, safety, and accessibility, has created an application and guidelines for you to complete to request the use of expanded outdoor space for your business. If you are interested in expanded dining options outdoors, please review the attached draft guidelines that are scheduled to be voted on by the City of Taunton License Commission on June 4, 2020 and application. City staff members are available and are ready to assist all applicants with reviewing and approving outdoor expansion plans.

Please select the appropriate application for your plans and return the application to us as soon as possible. Once we receive your application, we will reach out to you directly to review your proposed plans.

Questions in advance of completing the application should be directed to the following individuals, depending on the nature of the question:

Liquor licensing: Design of outdoor spaces: mccaffrey@tauntonpd.com and wrutherford@tauntonpd.com

Use of public parking lots: License Commission svalentino@taunton-ma.gov

Review of site plans on private lots, ADA questions for city sidewalks and streets: Kevin Scanlon, kscanlon@taunton-ma.gov

Questions regarding the use of Tents: Robert Pirozzi, rpirozzi@taunton-ma.gov

COVID 19 requirements: Please refer to the reopening Massachusetts guidance pertaining to outdoor dining at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-restaurants> . If you still have questions or concerns, please contact hgallant@taunton-ma.gov

Our local businesses have always played an essential role in the business, social, intellectual and artistic life of a thriving society. I look forward to working with you and I know that together we can keep Taunton safe, healthy, and thriving once again!

Sincerely,

Shaunna

Shaunna O'Connell
Mayor