



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-023

Date: March 25, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Subject: Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion Program Update

On May 22, 2020, the City of Fort Lauderdale launched the Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion Program (TOBE) to support COVID-19 recovery efforts of local businesses. TOBE allowed businesses to temporarily expand their business footprint into outdoor spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, and parking spaces. To participate in the program, local businesses had to submit an online application that included a site plan of their proposed expansion, an executed license agreement, and business contact information. Over 18 businesses participated in the program since its inception.

When the TOBE initiative was launched, the State of Florida mandated that businesses were only allowed to serve 50% of the capacity of their indoor seating as a part of the state's phased COVID reopening plan. The expanded outdoor access granted through this program allowed businesses to serve up to their usual 100% capacity by allowing their patrons to be seated outside.

On September 30, 2020, the State of Florida determined that restaurants, including any establishment with a food service license, could operate up to 100 percent (100%) of its total capacity. Therefore, the City will be ending the Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion program on April 15, 2021. Any business that desires to continue their expansion will be directed to apply through the City's special events process for further consideration.

For further information please contact Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at brogers@fortlauderdale.gov.

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