
MEMORANDUM



TO: City Council
FROM: City Staff
SUBJECT: **ORDINANCE 793- Outdoor Dining during the COVID-19 Emergency**
DATE: May 26, 2020

Background

On June 1, 2020 the State of MN has approved the opening of in person dining at restaurants. Here are a few important items regarding the reopening:

- Restaurants can open for outdoor dining only.
- Tables are to be spaced six feet or more apart.
- No more than 50 total people will be allowed at an outdoor restaurant setting.
- Party sizes should be kept to four total, or six in a family.
- Reservations will be required, meaning no walk-ins.
- Workers are required to wear masks.
- Patrons also are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

The City has relied upon the League of MN guidance in moving forward with this ordinance, as well as reviewed the processes of neighboring municipalities. For more information please reference: <https://www.lmc.org/resources/outdoor-service-restaurants-covid/>.

Analysis

The City of Princeton currently has approximately 8 dining establishments along Rum River and 1st Street. Staff have been contacted by businesses to discuss various details of expanding outdoor dining into public spaces. (Parking lots, sidewalks, streets).

City staff, with the direction of the City Attorney have included the draft of Ordinance 793 which outlines the guidelines for outdoor seating in response to the Governor's orders. Also included is the "Event Permit Application" which will be used for businesses expanding outdoor seating in accordance with the Governor's orders. The form allows staff to view a site plan of each location and make necessary recommendations on a case by case basis, as all properties have unique attributes.

Recommendation

City staff recommend the Council's approval of Ordinance 793, allowing City staff to administer the applications for Outdoor Dining, to ensure a timely process for restaurants requesting to provide outdoor seating.