

ORDINANCE NO. 42 - 2020

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND PROVIDING THE MAYOR WITH THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC STREETS, TO PERMIT THE TEMPORARY USE OF PARKING LOTS, SIDEWALKS, PARKS, AND CLOSED PUBLIC STREETS FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND RETAIL IN ORDER TO BETTER ALLOW INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND BUSINESS REOPENING REQUIREMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY; SUSPENDING APPLICABLE FEES FOR CERTAIN PERMITS; AND SETTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERESTED RETAIL BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS; EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE OF COUNCIL UNTIL 12:00 AM ON JUNE 24, 2020.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky have both declared states of emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Linda Gorton declared, in Executive Order 2020-01, that a state of emergency exists in Lexington-Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, multiple cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Lexington-Fayette County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kentucky Department of Health (DPH) and the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) have recommended that the public practice healthy and safety measures, including social distancing, meaning maintaining at least six feet of distance from other individuals to minimize the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor Beshear has issued requirements for retail businesses in the Commonwealth to reopen on May 20, 2020, including, but not limited to, operating at a maximum of 33% capacity; practicing social distancing; ensuring the premises are cleaned and sanitized regularly; and requiring the wearing of personal protective equipment by employees; and

WHEREAS, Governor Beshear has issued requirements for restaurants in the Commonwealth to reopen on May 22, 2020, including, but not limited to, operating at 33% capacity indoors, with no limit on outdoor seating if following social distancing requirements; practicing social distancing; ensuring the premises are cleaned and sanitized regularly; and requiring the wearing of personal protective equipment by employees; and

WHEREAS, outdoor activities, including outdoor restaurant seating and retail space, have been determined to be safer and less likely to lead to the spread of COVID-19 than indoor restaurant seating or retail space; and

WHEREAS, the Urban County Council recognizes the financial impact on local businesses, employees, and citizens resulting from the public health emergency and Governor Beshear's Executive Orders and business opening requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

for restaurant and retail business use of closed streets and on-street parking are necessary to help local businesses and the general public comply with the social distancing requirements implemented by the CDC and Governor Beshear, while doing our part to safely revitalize a local economy devastated by the effects of COVID-19 and get Lexington back to work; and

WHEREAS, the Council has authority to temporarily suspend enforcement of ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to temporarily suspend enforcement of certain existing Ordinances to better allow otherwise compliant retail businesses and restaurants to temporarily expand into adjacent public sidewalks; private parking lots; on-street parking; parks; and public streets closed to motor vehicle traffic.

WHEREAS, the proposed changes are temporary in nature and narrowly tailored to address the negative impacts created by the COVID-19 crisis

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 – Definitions

- (a) The term “retail business” shall be coextensive with the term “retail business” as used by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in his May 20, 2020, reopening guidance for retail businesses.
- (b) The term “restaurant” shall be coextensive with the term “restaurant” as used by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in his May 22, 2020, reopening guidance for restaurants.

Section 2 – Temporary Use of Public Sidewalks for Retail Business and Restaurants

- (a) Enforcement of the requirement to obtain a Sidewalk Café Permit under Sections 17-29 through 17-29.5 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Code of Ordinances be and hereby is suspended for retail businesses and restaurants otherwise complying with this Ordinance.
- (b) Retail businesses and restaurants otherwise complying with this Ordinance and the provisions of Section 17-29.3, excluding subsections (1) and (11), may use adjacent public sidewalk for the purposes and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- (c) Retail businesses and restaurants otherwise complying with this Ordinance and the provisions of Section 17-29.3, excluding subsections (1) and (11), may also use up to fifty (50) feet of public sidewalk in either direction for the purposes and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, with the prior approval by the adjacent business and property owner.

Section 3 – Temporary Suspension of Enforcement for Certain Zoning Ordinance Requirements

- (a) Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance’s off-street parking requirements be and hereby is suspended for retail business and restaurants otherwise complying with this Ordinance.
- (b) Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance’s requirement for a Zoning Compliance

- (c) Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance's requirements relating to non-permanent signs on private property, except requirements related to electronic signs, shall be suspended for retail businesses and restaurants otherwise complying with this Ordinance, unless placement of the non-permanent sign creates a threat to public safety, as determined by the Division of Police.
- (d) That review by the Courthouse Area Design Review Board shall not be required for any temporary changes to existing restaurant and retail space for businesses otherwise compliant with this Ordinance.

Section 4 – Temporary Use of On-Street Parking for Retail Business and Restaurants

(a) That subject to the approval of LexPark and the Divisions of Engineering and Traffic Engineering, on-street parking locations, with the exception of disabled parking, on streets with speed limits of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less, may be temporarily converted to outdoor seating by adjacent restaurants or use by adjacent retail businesses otherwise compliant with this Ordinance.

(b) Prior to allowing patrons to access the converted on-street parking for seating or other retail use, a physical barrier, approved by the Divisions of Engineering and Traffic Engineering, must be erected to prevent motor vehicles from traveling into the converted space.

Section 5 – That, to the extent any permit is required that has not otherwise been suspended by this Ordinance to provide outdoor seating for restaurants or for outdoor use by a retail business, including, but not limited to a tent permit or a special event permit, all application fees normally collected by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government are suspended.

Section 6 – Procedure for Requesting Outdoor Seating or Retail Use in Adjacent Parks

- (a) Restaurants or retail businesses adjacent to a public park that wish to provide outdoor seating or otherwise utilize a public park for the purposes and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance may apply to the Division of Parks and Recreation.
- (b) The application shall be created by the Division of Parks and Recreation, but shall include, at a minimum, the plans for the restaurant's or retail business' use of the park, including, but not limited to, garbage collection; social distancing methods; and the business' use of physical barriers; as well as proof of compliance with this Ordinance and an acknowledgment that the business will comply with all local, state, and federal laws.

Section 7 – Procedure for Requesting Temporary Street Closure

- (a) That those retail businesses or restaurants adjacent to public streets that wish to provide outdoor seating on or otherwise utilize the street for the purposes and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance must apply for a special recovery district permit through the Office of the Mayor and otherwise receive the approval of LexPark. No business may utilize the lanes of a street open to motor vehicle traffic.
- (b) The application shall be created by the Office of the Mayor, but shall include,

- (c) Upon receipt of a special recovery district permit application, the Divisions of Engineering and Traffic Engineering shall review and, if appropriate, approve the proposal's design for public safety.
- (d) Upon receipt of a special recovery district permit application and design approval by the Divisions of Engineering and Traffic Engineering, the Office of the Mayor may close public streets to motor vehicle traffic. The Office of the Mayor should take into consideration the completed special recovery district permit application requesting the street be closed, the concentration of requests for closure of a specific street, how traffic flow will be altered if the street is closed, the degree to which other businesses may be effected by the street closure, and public safety.
- (e) If the Office of the Mayor approves an application and temporarily closes the applicable street to motor vehicle traffic, the applicant may utilize the street for the purposes and in accordance with the provisions and requirements of this Ordinance and the business' application, to the extent the latter does not conflict with the former.

Section 8 – General Requirements for Retail Businesses and Restaurants

In addition to the other requirements provided in this Ordinance, to utilize adjacent public sidewalks, private parking lots, on-street parking, parks, or public streets closed to motor vehicle traffic as provided in this Ordinance, the retail business or restaurant must, for the entire period of temporary use:

- a) possess liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, covering the expanded location and naming the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government as an additional insured, which cannot be terminated or cancelled without thirty (30) days notice to the Government for use of public sidewalks, on-street parking; or public streets closed to motor vehicle traffic; and
- b) obtain the private owner's permission to use the space; and
- c) assume responsibility for any and all damage to public property that occurs within the retail business' or restaurant's use of additional outdoor space; and
- d) regularly pick up, remove, and dispose of all trash or refuse left by the business or its patrons in its additional outdoor space;
- e) refrain from blocking fire hydrants;
- f) prohibit smoking in the retail business' or restaurant's additional outdoor space; and
- g) erect boundaries to physically identify the retail business' or restaurant's use of additional outdoor space and to protect patrons from motor vehicles, if seating or retail use is immediately adjacent to an active roadway or within a private parking lot; and
- h) install temporary lighting to illuminate and delineate the boundary of the retail business' or restaurant's additional outdoor space; and
- i) clearly define the walk zone for pedestrians on sidewalks to provide the clearance required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. This walk zone must begin six (6) feet away from outdoor seating or the restaurant's or retail business' physical boundary identifying its additional space to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements implemented by Governor Beshear; and

Section 9 – That all facilities placed for use by retail businesses and restaurants in accordance with this Ordinance must be temporary in nature and shall be removed upon expiration or termination of this Ordinance.

Section 10 – That the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government reserves the right to require removal of facilities not in compliance with this Ordinance, other existing ordinances for which enforcement has not been suspended under this Ordinance, or state or federal law.

Section 11 – That this Ordinance shall be effective upon passage of Council and shall be effective until 12:00 am on June 24, 2020. At which time, unless extended by Council, the provisions of this Ordinance shall expire; enforcement of all applicable ordinances and regulations which were suspended under this Ordinance shall resume; and any restaurant or retail business with facilities on the sidewalk, private parking lots, on-street parking, parks, or public streets as allowed by this Ordinance shall cease operations and remove any facilities thereon.



MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF THE URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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