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City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Fax
(617) 796-1113
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
Email

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

rfuller@newtonma.gov

January 12, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

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Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to insert a new Section 5.1.14 (below) to allow restaurants for nine months to add outdoor seating on their private property regardless of the impact on any applicable parking and seating capacity requirements from April 1, 2022 until January 1, 2023.

Four restaurants were able to operate in their private parking lots as part of the Governor's COVID-19 emergency provisions which expires on April 1, 2022. This docket item would provide those restaurants with temporary relief for this dining season and give them an opportunity to address any zoning or special permit conditions so they could do so permanently.

Proposed language:

“From April 1, 2022 until January 1, 2023, all restaurants shall be allowed to add outdoor seating on their private property regardless of the impact on any applicable parking and seating capacity requirements set forth elsewhere in the zoning ordinance or any applicable special permit. All such seating shall be approved by the Director of Inspectional Services and Director of Planning to ensure the proposed seating will operate appropriately and safely and all applicable licensing requirements shall still apply.”

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller