

Alexandria Outdoor Dining Program

Providing Opportunities in Compliance with the Governor's Orders

Options for locating outdoor dining at alternative sites are proposed to allow restaurants the ability to serve customers outdoors in accordance with Phase 1 of the Governor's *Forward Virginia* Plan. Phase 1 is scheduled to take effect on May 29, 2020 and the City will implement the following programs for a duration of 90 days from that date, with the potential for an extension or a shortened program upon a decision by the City Manager. To establish these programs, waivers of enforcement of City ordinances are required, as noted within the description of each program:

1. Within the King Street Outdoor Dining (KSOD) area

In addition to the current program, which allows participants in the KSOD program to have outdoor dining on sidewalks under certain guidelines, participants will also be permitted to set up outdoor dining in parking spaces outside of their businesses in alignment with social distancing guidelines. A current certificate of insurance must be submitted to Planning & Zoning to be eligible. Those who are not presently registered for the KSOD program, may apply to Planning & Zoning. The 2020 fees have been waived and rapid processing of applications is planned. The Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBA) will coordinate the designation of parking spaces for outdoor dining use and communicate that to Planning & Zoning. Participants must comply with modified guidelines of the Parklet Program, including the location of parking spaces for outdoor dining away from corners or on streets with a high traffic volume.

Code Sections that have been suspended:

Section 5-8-3(f) - review by Traffic and Parking Board before recommendation to the Director of T&ES. Section 10-2-24 - Emergency and experimental regulations also allows for this suspension.

2. All areas outside the KSOD boundaries

Under this program, outdoor dining is permitted on restaurant property and in the public right-of-way (sidewalks, parking spaces, parking lots) where it will not detrimentally impact adjacent uses. Restaurant operators may take advantage of this program by submitting basic information identifying proposed locations and square footage for outdoor dining and number of seats, to Planning & Zoning. If on private land not controlled by the operator, the operator must indicate permission of the property owner. The application should also note compliance with specific criteria outlined below. Staff from Planning & Zoning, Transportation & Environmental Services, Health, Fire and Police will review the requests at no cost to the applicant.

Criteria for Suspension:

- Restaurants may use parking spaces in front of their business, adhering to the modified guidelines of the Parklet Program, including the location of parking spaces for outdoor dining away from corners or on streets with a high traffic volume.
- Restaurant seating must be arranged in accordance with social distancing requirements.
- Restaurant must contact T&ES to install wheel stops and flex posts for outdoor dining areas in parking spaces.
- Outdoor dining on sidewalks must allow for at least five feet of continuous pedestrian access.
- Outdoor dining hours must be the same as approved in the restaurant SUP.
- Live entertainment is not permitted.
- Liability insurance certificate required for use of public right-of-way.

Code Sections that have been suspended:

Section 5-8-3(f) - review by Traffic and Parking Board before recommendation to the Director of T&ES. Section 10-2-24 - Emergency and experimental regulations also allows for this suspension.

Section 5-2-29 – Street encroachments

Section 11-513 – Administrative Special Use Permit

3. Outdoor dining in off-street parking spaces on private property

Restaurant operators may use off-street spaces located on the same property for outdoor dining where it will not detrimentally impact adjacent uses. Restaurant operators may take advantage of this program by submitting basic information identifying proposed locations for outdoor dining, number of seats, and number of parking spaces used, to Planning & Zoning. This would also note compliance with specific criteria outlined below. Staff from Planning & Zoning, Transportation & Environmental Services, Health, Fire and Police will review the requests within three days at no cost to the applicant.

Criteria for Suspension:

- Restaurant seating must be arranged in accordance with social distancing requirements.
- Outdoor dining hours must be the same as approved in the restaurant SUP.
- Live entertainment is not permitted.

Code Sections that have been suspended:

Section 11-513 – Administrative Special Use Permit

Section 8-200(A)(17) – General parking regulations, restaurant