

December 16, 2020



CITY OF CHICAGO



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY SIDEWALK CAFÉ PERMIT REFORMS DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Be advised that on December 16, 2020, the Chicago City Council passed Ordinance 2020-5783, a COVID-19 emergency-related measure to extend regulatory relief for businesses due to COVID-19. As part of this ordinance, the City has implemented two changes to the Sidewalk Café Permit process:

1. All current Sidewalk Café Permits will be considered active through May 31, 2021. Businesses operating a Sidewalk Café may continue to do so until that date without renewing their permit.
2. Temporary reforms implemented in 2020 will apply to all Sidewalk Café Permits issued in 2021. These reforms include:
 - a. 75 percent permit fee reduction;
 - b. Ability to extend sidewalk cafes in front of a neighboring property; and
 - c. Expedited permit issuance process that allows BACP to issue permits without needing to be introduced as an ordinance to City Council.

Under these changes, the 2020 Sidewalk Café season will now expire on May 31, 2021. Businesses with existing Sidewalk Cafes looking to operate past that date and into the 2021 Sidewalk Café season will need to apply to renew their permit for the 2021 season by May 31. Renewal applications will be sent out later into 2021 (around April) for renewal by the May 31 expiration date.

Businesses looking to operate a new Sidewalk Café in 2021 will need to apply for a 2021 Sidewalk Café Permit. Applications will be available in early 2021 at chicago.gov/bacp and questions can be submitted via email at publicwayuse@cityofchicago.org.

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