Resolution of the Township of Freehold
Monmouth County, New Jersey

No: R-20-122 Date of Adoption: May 26, 2020

TITLE: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND/OR BUSINESS OPERATIONS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

--- RESOLUTION ---

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, through Executive Orders regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic has forced the closure of and otherwise restricted eating establishments; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that in the near future, the State will begin to relax these restrictions, allowing restaurants to operate at either limited capacity, outdoors only or a combination of both; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that restaurants would be required to follow social distancing guidelines, including ensuring that patrons remain appropriate distances while dining, limiting restaurant capacity to a certain percentage of allowable patrons, allowing outdoor dining among other possible changes in operations; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Freehold recognizes that restaurants and businesses are critical to the vibrancy of Freehold Township and to ensure that our local restaurants remain successful, the Township Committee desires to provide opportunities to quickly and easily expand to outdoor dining space to promote compliance with the Governor's orders; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that this resolution is an appropriate emergency measure and that it shall take effect immediately, it is imperative to provide assistance to Freehold Township's small businesses to help them continue their operations under the orders of the Governor and to maintain public safety while doing so;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee does hereby offer the following in support of continuing and expanding business operations within the Township:

1. The Township Committee authorizes the Zoning Officer to implement an abbreviated and emergency application process to allow businesses to quickly, safely and efficiently utilize outdoor areas to conduct operations consistent with the anticipated relaxation of the Executive Orders imposed upon those businesses.

2. The process for the abbreviated application with result in an approval by the Zoning Officer of a temporary and emergency zoning permission to conduct the required operations outdoors, in parking areas, grassed areas and drives, so long as they are consistent with the safety of the public and all patrons, and any promulgated executive order.

3. The Zoning Officer shall consult with the Township Engineer, Township Administrator, Police Chief and Fire Official and Health Officer to ensure consistency with his determination of safety.

4. In anticipation regarding actions of the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission to provide an abbreviated process for the expansion of licensed premises to both contiguous and non-contiguous areas in order to expand the consumption areas to these expanded areas, the Township Clerk is authorized, upon consultation with the Police Chief, to approve such expansion of premises applications through the State's system, should the State promulgate the appropriate rules.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Freehold does hereby affirm its approval of the outdoor dining

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk, to be a true copy, to be forwarded to each of the following:

A. George Baumann, Chief of Township Police
B. John DePinto, Zoning Officer
C. Margy Jahn, Health Officer
D. Robert Munoz, Esq., Township Attorney
No. R-20-122

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I-Introduced By   S-Seconded By  X- Indicates Vote  NV- Not Voting  AB- Absent