ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board), pursuant to the authority set forth in the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004, effective September 30, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-187; D.C. Official Code § 25-211(c) (2012 Repl. & 2019 Supp.)) and D.C. Official Code § 25-502 (2012 Repl. & 2019 Supp.), and Mayor's Order 2001-96, dated June 28, 2001, as amended by Mayor's Order 2001-102, dated July 23, 2001, gives notice of its intent to amend Chapter 10 (Endorsements) of Title 23 (Alcoholic Beverages) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

The emergency rulemaking will allow on-premises retailer's licenses and manufacturer licenses, class A or B, holding an on-site sales and consumption permit, or a Convention Center food and alcohol business to register with the Board to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on new or expanded outdoor public and private space not listed on its license.

On May 27, 2020, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-067, which announced that the District has entered Phase 1 of Washington DC's reopening. Among other things, Mayor's Order 2020-067 partially lifts the restriction prohibiting on-site dining by allowing restaurants, taverns, nightclubs, mixed-use facilities and other licensed food establishments to offer table service to seated patrons on outdoor public or private space. The Board interprets the phrase mixed-use facilities to include hotels, multipurpose facilities, private clubs and other class CX and DX licensees, and licensed manufacturers that serve food and satisfy the requirements set forth below.

In light of Mayor's Order 2020-067, the Board finds that emergency action is warranted to allow ABRA licensees who either seek to expand existing outdoor space or who do not presently have outdoor public or private space on their licenses to register with the Board so that they may be able to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on new or expanded outdoor public or private space. The Board finds that emergency action is also warranted in order to allow as many qualifying ABC licensed establishments to return to operation as possible in accordance with the Mayor's Order. This emergency rulemaking, however, will not allow these licensees to sell, serve, or allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages inside of the establishment; thus, continuing to protect the public health by prohibiting the sale, service, and consumption of alcoholic beverages indoors.

Thus, on May 28, 2020, the Board adopted the *Addition of Outdoor Public and Private Space Notice of Emergency Rulemakin*g, by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). This rulemaking shall remain in effect for the duration of the Extensions of Public Emergency and Public Health Emergency but in no event longer than one hundred twenty (120) days from the Board's adoption; expiring on or before September 25, 2020, unless superseded. The emergency rulemaking shall take effect on Friday, May 29, 2020.

Chapter 10, ENDORSEMENTS, of 23 DCMR, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, is amended by adding a new Section 1007, ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR SEATING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE, on an emergency basis to read as follows:

1007 ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR SEATING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE

1007.1 Notwithstanding 23 DCMR § 810.2, a licensee under an on-premises retailer's license, class C/R, D/R, C/T, D/T, C/N, D/N, C/H, D/H, C/X, or D/X, including multipurpose facilities and private clubs, a manufacturer's license, class A or B, holding an on-site sales and consumption permit, or a Convention Center food and alcohol business shall be permitted to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on new or expanded temporary ground floor or street level outdoor public and private space not listed on its existing license, provided that the licensee:

(a) Registers with the Board, at no cost, and receives written authorization from ABRA prior to selling, serving, or permitting the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the proposed outdoor public or private space;

(b) Registers with DDOT prior to operating on any proposed outdoor public space or receives written approval from the property owner prior to utilizing any proposed outdoor private space; and

(c) Agrees to follow all applicable DCRA, DOH, and DDOT laws and regulations and Mayor's Orders.

1007.2 An on-premises retailer's license, class C/R, D/R, C/T, D/T, C/N, D/N, C/H, D/H, C/X, or D/X, including multipurpose facilities and private clubs, a manufacturer's license holding an on-site sales and consumption permit, class A or B, or a Convention Center food and alcohol business that registers with the Board in accordance with § 1007.1 to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on new or expanded ground floor or street level outdoor public or private space not listed on its existing license shall:

(a) Place tables on the sidewalk café or summer garden serving separate parties at least six (6) feet apart from one another;

(b) Ensure that all outdoor dining customers are seated and place orders and are served food or alcoholic beverages at tables;

(c) Prohibit events and activities that would require patrons to cluster or be in close contact with one another, including dancing, playing darts, video games, or other outdoor games;

(d) Prohibit patrons from bringing their own alcoholic beverages;

(e) Prohibit self-service buffets;

(f) Have a menu in use containing a minimum of three (3) prepared food items available for purchase by patrons;

(g) Require the purchase of one or more prepared food items per table;

(h) Ensure that prepared food items offered for sale or served to patrons are prepared on the licensed premises or off-premises at another licensed entity that has been approved to sell and serve food by the District Department of Health;

(i) Ensure that the proposed outdoor public or private space is located in a commercial or mixed-use zone as defined in the District's zoning regulations;

(j) Restrict its operations, excluding carry-out and delivery, and the sale, service, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages outdoors for on-premises consumption to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and midnight, Sunday through Saturday;

(k) Not have more than six (6) individuals seated at a table or a joined table;

(l) Require patrons to wait outside at least six feet (6 ft.) apart until they are ready to be seated;

(m) Not provide live music or entertainment, except for background or recorded music played at a conversational level that is not heard in the homes of District residents;

(n) Not serve alcoholic beverages or food to standing patrons;

(o) Prohibit standing or seating at an outdoor bar provided tables or counter seats that do not line up to a bar may be used for patron seating as long as there is a minimum of six feet (6 ft.) between parties;

(p) Prohibit the placement of alcohol advertising, excluding non-contact menus, on outdoor public space;

(q) Provide and require that wait staff wear masks;

(r) Request that patrons wear masks when waiting in line outside of the restaurant or while traveling to use the restroom or until they are seated and eating or drinking;

(s) Implement a reservation system by phone or on-line and consider keeping customer logs to facilitate contact tracing by DC Health;

(t) Implement sanitization and disinfection protocols including the provision of single use condiment packages; and

(u) Have its own clearly delineated outdoor space and shall not share tables and chairs with another business.

1007.3 Registration under § 1007.1 shall be valid from May 29, 2020, to July 24, 2020, unless extended by the Mayor or the District of Columbia Council.

1007.4 The Board may fine, suspend, or revoke an on-premises retailer's license, class C or D, or a manufacturer's license, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, and shall revoke the registration issued in accordance with § 1007.1 if the licensee fails to comply with requirements set forth in § 1007.1 or 1007.2.

1007.5 Notwithstanding § 1007.2, if an on-premises retailer's license, class C or D, or a manufacturer's license, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, has a settlement agreement governing its operations, the Board:

(a) Shall interpret settlement agreement language that restricts sidewalk cafes or summer gardens as applying only to those outdoor spaces that are currently licensed by the Board as sidewalk cafes or summer gardens;

(b) Shall not interpret language that restricts or prohibits sidewalk cafes or summer gardens to apply to new or extended outdoor space now permitted under this subsection on a temporary basis because prior to the Coronavirus pandemic this new registration process was not available to eligible licensees;

(c) Shall not interpret language that restricts or prohibits the operation of permanent outdoor space to mean prohibiting the temporary operation of sidewalk cafes or summer gardens because prior to the Coronavirus pandemic this new registration process was not available to eligible licensees; and

(d) Shall require all on-premises retailer licenses, class C or D, or manufacturer licenses, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, to delineate or mark currently licensed outdoor space from new or extended outdoor space authorized by DDOT or the property owner.

1007.6 With regard to existing outdoor public or private space, parties to a settlement agreement shall be permitted to waive provisions of settlement agreements that

address currently licensed outdoor space for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days.

1007.7 A manufacturer's license, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, or an on-premises retailer's license, class C/T, D/T, C/N, D/N, C/X, or D/X, including multipurpose facilities or private clubs, may partner with a food vendor during its operating hours to satisfy the use of a menu containing a minimum of three (3) prepared food items available to patrons requirement set forth in § 1007.2(f), provided patrons are seated when ordering and ordered food is delivered by the licensee or the food vendor to the seated patron.

1007.8 For purposes of this section:

(a) Ground floor or street level sidewalk cafes or summer gardens with awnings or tents containing no more than one (1) side shall be considered outdoor space;

(b) Retractable glass walls and other forms of operable walls shall be considered indoor dining; and

(c) Temporary unlicensed rooftops and summer gardens not located on the ground floor or street level are not eligible for registration under § 1007.1.