ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

NOTICE OF ELEVENTH 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(b) - (c) (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, amends Chapter 8 (Enforcement, Infractions, and Penalties) of Title 23 (Alcoholic Beverages) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) by adding a new Section 810 (Conditions of On-Premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption During the Public Emergency) on an emergency basis.

On March 20, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-050, Extensions of Public Health Emergency: COVID-19 (COVID-19) and Mayor's Order 2020-051, Prohibition on Mass Gatherings During Public Health Emergency – COVID-19 (COVID-19). *See* 67 DCR 03601 and 03603 (March 27, 2020). These Orders served to modify and extend, through April 24, 2020, the declared public health emergency and imposed restrictions established by two previous Mayor's Orders (Mayor's Orders 2020-045 and 2020-046) issued on March 11, 2020. *See* 67 DCR 02956 and 02961 (March 12, 2020). On March 24, 2020, the Mayor issued Mayor's Order 2020-053, temporarily closing all non-essential businesses in the District, and further prohibiting large gatherings. *See* 67 DCR 03608 (March 27, 2020). On April 15, 2020, Mayor Bowser extended the public emergency and public health emergency in the District through May 15, 2020, (Mayor's Order 2020-063), and on May 13, 2020, the Mayor extended the public emergency and public health emergency once again through June 8, 2020 (Mayor's Order 2020-066). *See* 67 DCR 04407 and 04410 (April 15, 2020).

Recognizing that other types of ABC-licensed establishments sought to offer alcoholic beverages for carry-out and delivery, the Board took further emergency action to allow hotels, multipurpose facilities, and private clubs to obtain temporary restaurant endorsements so that they could also offer alcoholic beverages for carry-out and delivery. The Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Emergency Rulemaking* by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). *See* 67 DCR 04589 (March 27, 2020). The Board adopted a second emergency rulemaking on March 25, 2020, by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0), which superseded the emergency rulemaking that the Board had previously adopted. *See* 67 DCR 04130 (April 10, 2020).

On April 22, 2020, by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0), the Board took further emergency action in response to the Council of the District of Columbia's (Council) expansion of carry-out and delivery authorization to nightclubs. Specifically, the *Suspension of On-premise Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Third Emergency Rulemaking*, which superseded the previously adopted emergency rulemaking, permitted nightclub licensees to obtain a temporary restaurant endorsement so that they could offer alcoholic beverages for carry-out and delivery with at least one (1) prepared food item. *See* 67 DCR 05600 (May 29, 2020).

After the Board adopted the third emergency rulemaking, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-067, dated May 27, 2020, implementing Phase One of Washington D.C.'s reopening. *See*

67 DCR 05612 (May 29, 2020 – Part 1). Among other things, Mayor's Order 2020-067 partially lifted 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 interpreted 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. Thus, on May 28, 2020, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales Notice of Fourth Emergency Rulemaking*, by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). This emergency rulemaking superseded the previously adopted emergency rulemaking. *See* 67 DCR 07930 (June 26, 2020).

After adopting the fourth emergency rulemaking, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-075, dated June 19, 2020, which implemented Phase Two of Washington, D.C.'s reopening. *See* 67 DCR 07943 (June 26, 2020). Mayor's Order 2020-075, among other things, allows restaurants, taverns, nightclubs, mixed-use facilities, and other licensed food establishments to: (1) offer on-site dining indoors, while limiting indoor capacity to no more than fifty percent (50%), excluding staff and outdoor seating; and (2) offer bar seating provided that the bar is not being staffed or utilized by a bartender.

In response to the issuance of Mayor's Order 2020-075, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Fifth Emergency Rulemaking* on June 19, 2020, by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). *See* 67 DCR 09232 (July 31, 2020)). The emergency rulemaking, which superseded the emergency rules the Board had previously adopted, amended § 810 by modifying the conditions under which licensees may sell, serve and allow the consumption of beer, wine, or spirits indoors or outdoors during the public emergency.

Since the adoption of the fifth emergency rulemaking, the Council passed the Streatery Program and Pop Up Locations Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective July 27, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-346; 67 DCR 9387 (August 7, 2020)) [Expired], which further modified requirements for ABC-licensed establishments seeking to offer alcoholic beverages for on-site sales and consumption and carryout, as well as those licensees who seek to use expanded or new outdoor public or private spaces. Some of the additional requirements in the Act were absent from the Board's fifth emergency rulemaking. In order to ensure that the District's regulations were consistent with the new law, the Board deemed it necessary to take emergency action. Thus, on August 19, 2020, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Sixth Emergency Rulemaking*, which superseded the emergency rules the Board had previously adopted. *See* 67 DCR 11139 (September 18, 2020).

After adopting the sixth emergency rulemaking, the ABC Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Seventh Emergency Rulemaking*, on September 30, 2020, by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0). *See* 67 DCR 12724 (October 30, 2020). The Board adopted these emergency rules in response to the Council's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2020, effective July 28, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-404, 67 DCR 10098) [Expired].

After the Board adopted the seventh emergency rulemaking, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-119, dated November 23, 2020. *See* 67 DCR 14025 (November 27, 2020). Amongst other

things, Mayor's Order 2020-119 established new restrictions for restaurants and other licensed food establishments where alcoholic beverages are purchased and sold for on-premises consumption. In response to this new Mayor's Order, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Eighth Emergency Rulemaking,* by a vote of four (4) to one (1), on November 24, 2020. *See* 68 DCR 00919 (January 15, 2021).

After the Board adopted the eighth emergency rulemaking, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-127, dated December 18, 2020. *See* 67 DCR 14986 (December 25, 2020). Mayor's Order 2020-127 ordered restaurants and other dining facilities to cease indoor dining effective 10:00 p.m. on December 23, 2020, until 5:00 a.m. on January 15, 2021. In response to the Mayor's Order, the Board issued the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Ninth Emergency Rulemaking*, which ordered ABC-licensed establishments to cease indoor operations in accordance with the Mayor's Order. *See* 68 DCR 01291 (January 22, 2021).

On January 11, 2021, Mayor Bowser extended Mayor's Order 2020-127, which paused certain Phase Two activities due to public safety concerns and the ongoing health emergency that the COVID-19 Pandemic presents. *See* Mayor's Order 2021-004, dated January 11, 2021. *See* 68 DCR 00945 (January 13, 2021). Mayor's Order 2020-127 would have expired at 5:00 a.m. on January 15, 2021. By issuing the new Mayor's Order, the Mayor extended the pause on certain Phase Two activities, including indoor dining, until 5:00 a.m. on January 22, 2021.

On March 17, 2021, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2021-038, which, amongst other things, allows restaurants and other dining facilities to operate, and offer sales, service, and on-premises consumption until midnight daily. Mayor's Order 2021-038 took effect on March 22, 2021.

In order to ensure that the District's alcohol regulations are consistent with the Mayor's Order, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Eleventh Emergency Rulemaking* on March 17, 2021. The emergency rulemaking continues to allow on-premises alcohol sales and consumption in accordance with the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Tenth Emergency Rulemaking*, which the Board adopted on January 13, 2021. *See* 68 DCR 02320 (February 26, 2021). The new emergency rulemaking, however, extends the hours of operation, sales, service, and consumption to midnight, daily, unless otherwise restricted by settlement agreement. This emergency rulemaking will allow an ABC-licensed establishment to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages until midnight, which is a change from 10:00 p.m.

This emergency action is necessary for protecting the health and welfare of District residents. This action will ensure that the Board's regulations are consistent with the new COVID-19 restrictions, which serve to further the Mayor's and Board's objective to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Thus, on March 17, 2021, the Board adopted the *Suspension of On-premises Alcohol Sales and Consumption Notice of Eleventh Emergency Rulemaking*, by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0). These emergency rules supersede the emergency rules that the Board adopted on January 13, 2021. The emergency rules took effect on March 22, 2021, and will expire in one hundred twenty (120) days, or by July 15, 2021, unless superseded.

Chapter 8, ENFORCEMENT, INFRACTIONS, AND PENALTIES, of Title 23 DCMR, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, is amended by adding a new Section 810, CONDITIONS OF ON-PREMISES ALCOHOL SALES AND CONSUMPTION DURING THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY, to read as follows:

810 CONDITIONS OF ON-PREMISES ALCOHOL SALES AND CONSUMPTION DURING THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY

810.1 The sale and service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption indoors and outdoors shall be permitted in the District of Columbia for the remainder of either or both the Mayor's Public Emergency and Public Health Emergency by authorized licensees, provided that they comply with the requirements set forth in § 810.2. Specifically, the sale and service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption indoors and outdoors shall be conditionally permitted by the following license classes:

(a) The holders of a retailer's license class C or D, including licensed caterers;

(b) Class A or B manufacturers holding an on-site sales and consumption permit;

(c) Festival and temporary license holders; and

(d) Any other license or permit category set forth under Title 25 of the D.C. Official Code.

810.2 An ABC-licensed establishment may resume on-premises alcohol sales, service and consumption indoors pursuant to § 810.1 if the establishment:

(a) Limits indoor capacity to twenty-five percent (25%) of the lowest indoor occupancy load or seating capacity on its certificate of occupancy, excluding employees and outdoor seating; and

(b) Ceases operations and indoor on-premises alcohol sales, service, and consumption at 12:00 Midnight each day, unless otherwise restricted by settlement agreement; and

(c) Complies with the requirements set forth in § 810.3.

810.3 A licensee who holds an on-premises retailer license, class C/R, D/R, C/T, D/T, C/N, D/N, C/H, D/H, C/X, or D/X, including a multipurpose facility or private club, a manufacturer license, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, a festival or temporary license, or any other license or permit set forth in Title 25 of the D.C. Official Code, may sell, serve and allow the consumption of beer, wine,

or spirits indoors or on a Board-approved outdoor sidewalk café or summer garden, including an existing rooftop patio; Provided, that the licensee shall:

(a) Place indoor or outdoor tables on the sidewalk café or summer garden so that separate parties are at least six feet (6 ft.) apart from one another;

(b) Ensure for non-movable communal tables that parties are seated at least six feet (6 ft.) apart from one another and that the communal table is marked with six-foot (6 ft.) divisions, such as with tape or signage;

(c) Ensure that all indoor or outdoor dining customers are seated and place orders and are served food or alcoholic beverages at tables that have been cleaned and sanitized between parties;

(d) Prohibit events and activities that would require patrons to be standing or in cluster or be in close contact with one another, including dancing, playing darts, video games including games of skill, bowling, ping pong, pool, throwing axes, or indoor playgrounds;

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

(f) Prohibit self-service buffets;

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

(h) Require the purchase of one (1) or more prepared food items per table;

(i) 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 of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health);

(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 12:00 Midnight, Sunday through Saturday, unless otherwise prohibited by settlement agreement;

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

(l) Require patrons to wait outside at least six feet (6 ft.) apart until they are ready to be seated or make an on-site reservation;

(m) Not provide live music or entertainment on the licensed premises without first obtaining a waiver from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency;

(n) Be allowed to play background or recorded music at a conversational level that is not heard in the homes of District residents;

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

(p) Prohibit standing at indoor or outdoor bars and only permit seating at indoor or outdoor bars that are not being staffed or utilized by a bartender;

(q) Require a minimum of six feet (6 ft.) between parties seated at outdoor bars, rail seats, or communal tables;

(r) Abide by the terms of its public space permit concerning the allowable placement of alcohol advertising, if any, in outdoor public space;

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

(t) Require that patrons wear masks or face coverings when waiting in line outside of the establishment and while traveling to use the restroom and until they are seated and eating or drinking;

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

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

(w) Be permitted to utilize an additional location registered for alcohol carry-out and delivery. The use of outdoor space adjacent to or near the additional location shall be required to be registered pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-113(a)(6) to be utilized for outdoor dining;

(x) Have its own clearly delineated outdoor space and not share tables and chairs with another business;

(y) Have no more than two (2) side flaps or walls and a roof on outdoor dining structures, tents, or canopies that are intended to seat more than one (1) party. Enclosed outdoor structures that are intended for one (1) party of six (6) guests or fewer, including single party igloos or plastic domes, shall be permitted; and

(z) Not operate a sidewalk café during a snow emergency.

810.4 A licensee who holds a manufacturer's license, class A or B, with an on-site sales and consumption permit, a retailer's license class C/T, D/T, C/N, D/N, C/X, or D/X, a festival or temporary license, or any other license or permit set forth in Title 25 of the D.C. Official Code, may partner with a food vendor during its operating hours to satisfy the menu requirement set forth in § 810.3(g), if patrons are seated when ordering and ordered food is delivered by the licensee to the seated patron.

810.5 A licensed restaurant, tavern, hotel, nightclub, or Class C/X and D/X licensee, including multi-purpose facilities and private clubs that register with the Board may sell beer, wine, or spirits in closed containers for individuals to carry-out and consume outside of the establishment, or deliver beer, wine, or spirits in closed containers to the homes of District residents, if each carry-out or delivery order is accompanied by one (1) or more prepared food items.

810.6 A restaurant, tavern, hotel, nightclub, or Class C/X and D/X licensee, including multipurpose facilities and private clubs, shall receive written authorization from ABRA before beginning carry-out or delivery of beer, wine, or spirits. Board approval shall not be required for registration.

810.7 A registered licensed restaurant, tavern, hotel, nightclub, or Class C/X and D/X licensee, including multipurpose facilities and private clubs, may sell beer, wine, or spirits for carry-out and delivery only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 Midnight each day.

810.8 Except as provided in § 810.4, a registered licensed restaurant, tavern, hotel, nightclub, or Class C/X and D/X licensee, including multi-purpose facilities and private clubs, shall not permit the consumption of beer, wine, or spirits on the licensed premises.

810.9 Any person delivering beer, wine, or spirits to the homes of District residents shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older and shall take reasonable steps to ascertain that the person receiving the delivered beer, wine, or spirits is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

810.10 The Board, in its discretion, may immediately suspend or revoke without prior notice or advertisement, the ABC license of an establishment licensed under Title 25 of the District of Columbia Official Code that is in violation of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Board or ABRA from issuing a written or verbal warning for a violation of this section.

810.11 The Board shall conspicuously post two (2) summary suspension or revocation notices at or near the main street entrance of the outside of an establishment whose license has been suspended or revoked in accordance with § 810.11.

810.12 If the Board summarily suspends or revokes a license in accordance with § 810.11, the licensee may request a hearing within three (3) business days after service of

a Notice of Suspension or Revocation. The Board shall hold a hearing within two (2) business days of receipt of a timely request and shall issue a decision within three (3) business days after the hearing.

810.13 A licensee aggrieved by a final summary action may file an appeal in accordance with the procedures set forth in Subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2.