Winter Patios

FACT SHEET

The City is committed to supporting businesses through this challenging time. As the end of our summer patio season is fast approaching and you start thinking about Winter patios please keep the following in mind.

RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) WINTER PATIO PERMITS

Council has recently extended the ROW Summer Patio Permit program to November 15th and has also waived the monthly permit fees for the ROW Winter Patio program. The City will continue to collect the standard $62 permit fee for ROW Winter Patio permit applications.

Anyone wishing to operate a ROW Winter Patio past November 15, please contact ROWPatio@ottawa.ca as soon as possible to obtain a winter patio permit (for up to March 31, 2021).

PATIOS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Council has also extended the Temporary Zoning By-law amendment for patios on private property to December 31st to align with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission's (AGCO) temporary extension for liquor licensing. The City continues to engage in discussions with the Province regarding the need for a continued AGCO temporary extension into 2021.

There is no need to register with the City again for an extension to operate a patio on private property until December 31.

COVERED PATIOS – TENTS AND OTHER TYPES OF STRUCTURES

Building Code Services, Ottawa Public Health and Fire Services have jointly advised that at least two sides of any structure (i.e. walls) must be open while the patio is in operation, regardless of the weather or type of heating source.

Anyone wishing to continue using or installing some form of covered structure for the winter season, needs to review the requirements as per Building Code Services and ensure that all requirements have been met. Building Code Services will continue to expedite permit approvals for tents, patios, awnings and canopies within 5 business days. Please contact Building Code Services directly for any inquiries at buildingpermits@ottawa.ca.

HEATING OF PATIOS AND BLANKETS

With the colder weather approaching, installing or operating patio heaters is becoming more common. Ottawa Fire Services recommends that all heaters are approved for use in Canada and installed and operated as per the manufacturer's instructions including proper ventilation and maintaining recommended clearances to combustibles and customers. All appropriate portable extinguishers are required to be on location. The type and size of portable extinguishers is relative to the size of patio and number of heaters in use. Patio Operators must also adhere to all requirements of the Ontario Fire Code.

For any inquiries related to fire pits, open-air fires or specific questions related to heating patios, please contact Ottawa Fire Services directly at FirePrevention@ottawa.ca.

Questions have been raised about the safety of blankets for customers on patios. Please be advised that Ottawa Public Health has recommended that either customers bring their own blankets or if blankets are provided, that they are laundered in between uses. It is also important to ensure that combustibles, such as blankets, are kept away from any heating sources.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Continued diligence with physical distancing of customers is of upmost importance. Please ensure any modifications to the layout of patios (such as heater locations, seating layout) respect the minimum 2 metre physical distancing requirements. Please note that in accordance with the Province's Stage 3 legislation, standing on patio, other than to exit/enter a patio, paying for or picking up food, or walking to the washroom is not permitted.

BEING COVID WISE

Being COVID Wise is how we will be able to resume economic and social activities while COVID-19 is still in our community. Information and resources for businesses are available to help meet current regulations and adapt your workplace to be COVID Wise. As a workplace and business, being COVID Wise will help keep both customers and employees safer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you so much for your hard work and efforts to help keep our community healthy!