



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

30111 Crown Valley Parkway
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(949) 362-4300
cityoflagunaniguel.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAGUNA NIGUEL CITY COUNCIL APPROVES OUTDOOR DINING PILOT PROGRAM

Laguna Niguel, CA – On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the Laguna Niguel City Council approved a pilot program to allow temporary activation of portions of shopping center parking and common areas to accommodate outdoor dining for restaurants during the COVID-19 public health crisis. In addition, the City Council approved waiving the pilot program’s required Temporary Use Permit filing fee for those participating in the program.

“In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the City of Laguna Niguel has acted proactively to assist the local business community during these difficult times. As a small business owner, I truly understand what so many in our community are experiencing,” said Mayor Laurie Davies. “My City Council colleagues and I will continue to support creative business-friendly ideas that help our incredible business community get back on their feet and thrive once again.”

This pilot program is part of the City’s efforts to assist Laguna Niguel restaurants with striking a balance between complying with new state guidelines for reopening and offsetting the impacts to on-site dining. The approval process for the temporary utilization of parking and common areas for on-site dining opportunities would require a Temporary Use Permit, issued over-the-counter, subject to adherence to appropriate health and safety precautions and guidelines; approval from applicable regulatory agencies; and, the determination that sufficient available parking will be maintained shopping center-wide. The City will work with the participating shopping centers and restaurants to ensure health and safety guidelines are met and to ensure safety measures are put in place within shopping centers to protect patrons, employees, and pedestrians. Unless superseded by the County, State, or Federal government, the Temporary Use Permit would be valid for 60 days and may be extended at the discretion of the City.

In addition to this new pilot program, the City of Laguna Niguel has created an Economic Recovery Team to assist the Laguna Niguel business community during this period of economic uncertainty. This Team is dedicated to guiding businesses through the state and federal loan programs, to enhancing their marketing presence throughout the community, and to assist with their safe return to business as local and state orders are loosened or lifted altogether.

For more information and for inquiries on the process for participating in the pilot program or for more information about the Economic Recovery Team, please contact the City of Laguna Niguel Community Development Department at (949) 362-4360 or econdev@cityoflagunaniguel.org.

For up-to-date information, resources, and services, please visit the City’s website at www.cityoflagunaniguel.org, call (949) 362-4300, or engage with the City on Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor.

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