

## Commercial Recovery Initiative

Whereas the economy of Oakville has been drastically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with provincially mandated business restrictions and closures, resulting in limited operations, employee lay offs, and financial hardships.

And whereas commercial areas in Oakville form a key component necessary to ensure that Oakville is a complete, livable community.

And whereas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor formed an Economic Task Force, comprising representatives from the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, BIAs, Visit Oakville, and Economic Development, to provide immediate short-term relief measures to the business community, as well as explore options to support Oakville's long-term economic recovery.

And whereas the Province has entered into Phase One of reopening under the COVID-19 state of emergency and communities are preparing for the restoration of services.

And whereas public health officials advise that two metre distancing is a critical tool to slow the spread of COVID-19.

And whereas the reopening of commercial businesses will require interim adjustments to methods of service delivery to maintain physical distancing requirements related to COVID-19 and meet the needs of the community.

And whereas the Economic Task Force has collaborated to develop the *Commercial Recovery Initiative* to support the town-wide reopening of commercial businesses in a practical manner that supports the safety of the community, employees and members of the public.

### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That staff, in cooperation with members of the Economic Task Force, be authorized to implement the *Commercial Recovery Initiative*, designed to re-invigorate economic activity within the Town while simultaneously protecting public health and safety, which includes the following:
  - Making town lands in and adjacent to commercial areas available at nominal cost to enable the provision of temporary commercial services outdoors, including patios or pop-up facilities associated with existing restaurants and retail businesses, or outdoor sale or display of merchandise meeting the objectives of the program, subject to permitting requirements;
  - Incorporating physical distancing measures in commercial areas to address safety such as dedicated queueing or pedestrian areas;
  - Providing assistance through the Economic Task force to the BIA's, Chamber of Commerce and Visit Oakville with the development and implementation of a coordinated marketing campaign that encourages residents and visitors to support local businesses;

- Expedited processing of permits which assist existing businesses in adjusting to the delivery of their services through alternate means;
  - Temporary exemptions from providing required parking under section 40 of the *Planning Act* granted at nominal value to accommodate outdoor patios, or outdoor display areas on private property;
  - Any use of town land or other permits being subject to compliance with physical distancing or other requirements applicable as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, insurance and indemnities, and any other restrictions necessary to protect public safety, meet accessibility requirements and avoid undue interference with the use of public lands by the general public or impacts on adjacent residents.
2. That the application fees for requisite approvals associated with the Commercial Recovery Initiative, be waived for 2020.
  3. That authority to implement the *Commercial Recovery Initiative* is delegated jointly to the Commissioner of Community Development and the Director of Economic Development.