



Mayor's Office | Phone: 860.584.6250 | Fax: 860-584-3835

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Bristol CT) March 12, 2021

### **The City of Bristol Offers Guidance to Restaurants on Outdoor Dining for 2021**

As the warmer weather approaches, the City of Bristol will continue to support outdoor dining as the pandemic continues, the Mayor's Office announced on Friday. "As a result of the Governor's Executive Orders in 2020, the City will be offering a streamlined approval process allowing restaurants to quickly continue what they did last year; establish outdoor dining, and in some cases, expand outdoor dining," said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu.

"Because of the success of outdoor dining in 2020, many local restaurants and diners have expressed interest in making outdoor dining permanent," stated Economic Development Director Justin Malley. "The City recognizes that outdoor dining in Bristol is attractive to both restaurant owners and diners. As a result, City officials discussed a new streamlined process for restaurants to offer outdoor dining on a permanent basis."

- For outdoor dining areas that are 500 square feet or under, restaurant owners will need to complete a zoning permit that will be reviewed by the Building Department.
- For outdoor dining areas larger than 500 square feet restaurant owners will need to complete and submit a site plan for review and approval by the Zoning Commission. These site plans have the potential of being bundled together for review by the Zoning Commission at their April meeting.

"The City wants to ensure safe and efficient outdoor dining environments that both restaurant owners and the public can enjoy," stated Edward Spyros, Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Last year, the City deployed a team of employees from Engineering, Economic Development, Building, Health, Fire Marshall and Police Traffic divisions to expedite the creation of outdoor zones. "While many of the restaurants who did it last year can re-open easily again under the Governor's Executive Orders, these orders are scheduled to expire on April 20<sup>th</sup>, so we are trying to get ahead of what will need to be done if they do lapse," said the Mayor.

#### City of Bristol

111 North Main Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
[www.bristolct.gov](http://www.bristolct.gov)

All Bristol restaurant owners who wish to offer outdoor dining are asked to contact zoning officer, Ed Spyros in the Building Department to determine which process their restaurant will need to take. **Ed can be reached at City Hall Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, by phone at 860-584-6214 or by email at [EdwardSpyros@BristolCT.gov](mailto:EdwardSpyros@BristolCT.gov).**

###