

## **CITY OF OAK PARK BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PACKAGE**

The City of Oak Park is grateful for its local business community, and understands the hardships that the COVID-19 pandemic has created for most. In an effort to do everything we can to assist our business community in rebounding after this event we have put together a package of various assistance programs and initiatives.

### **Loosened Signage Restrictions**

Restaurants, food service uses and retailers. The City of Oak Park will temporarily allow one sign up to 32 square feet to let customers know if they offer curbside pickup, delivery, etc. There will be no permit fee or application for these signs.

#### Guidelines:

- May install a temporary sign up to 32 square feet.
- The sign must comply with all Zoning ordinance and property maintenance code provisions.
- Signs are allowed until October 1, 2020.
- No application needed.
- No fee
- Business must be open to the public during this time to be allowed the additional temporary sign.
- The sign must be located on the business premise.

### **Outdoor Dining**

- Waiver of the outdoor dining permit fee (\$150) until October 31, 2020
- Must submit application to the Planning Department for administrative approval
- Loosen restrictions on outdoor dining to allow businesses to expand floorplan outside while abiding by social distancing guidelines.

### **Sidewalk Sales**

In the near future we will allow retail businesses to hold sidewalk sales to help increase their visibility and store capacity. This requires us to amend an ordinance which we will be doing as soon as possible. The sidewalk sales will be allowed in certain areas of the community on selected dates. We will not allow them all the time. Most likely we will allow businesses to hold them one day a week. More details to follow.

### **Grants**

Through various resources, the City has implemented several grant programs for licensed local businesses.

- **Corridor Improvement Authority Grants**

The City is allocating \$15,000 for grants to licensed businesses within the boundaries of the CIA for creating outdoor café's and marketing. The grant application can be found on the City website and is due by June 10, 2020.

- **Business Grants**

The City is allocating \$12,383.39 for grants to licensed businesses in Oak Park. Those funds can be used for rent, creating outdoor café's or marketing. The grant application can be found on the City website and is due by June 10, 2020.

- **Patronicity Grants**

Made available through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and in partnership with Mainstreet Oakland County, the City has created a Patronicity fundraising campaign to raise funds for local businesses. For every dollar the City raises, Main Street Oakland County will match up to \$4,000. Once this campaign is complete the City will use these funds to provide local business grants. The application can be found on our website and will be due by June 15, 2020.

### **Business License Late Fees**

Any businesses who have not yet paid for their business license or renewal for this year (2020), the City will waive the late fee that would normally be applied.

### **Advertising**

The City of Oak Park is reducing our advertising fees by 50% in the Oak Park quarterly magazine for all Oak Park licenses businesses until Spring 2021. To find more information on rates, and how to place an advertisement in the magazine, which reaches 14,000 homes and 1,000 businesses, please visit the City's website [here](#).

### **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Businesses**

The City of Oak Park is collaborating with Oakland County to provide PPE for licensed businesses within the Corridor Improvement Authority boundaries to aid in a safe reopening strategy. The City is also working with our District 12 communities to find suppliers of PPE with hopes to create a resource for our businesses outside of the CIA boundaries. Businesses not located within the CIA and are in need of face masks for their employees, please contact Kim Marrone at [kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov) and identify the quantity of masks you need. Due to a generous donation by business owner Andrew Attisha these supplies are being made available to our

businesses.

### **BUY LOCAL Campaign**

The City of Oak Park will be implementing a “BUY LOCAL” Campaign over the next several months. The purpose of this is to promote our local businesses and encourage people to “Buy Local”

### **Farmer’s Market Tables for Local Businesses**

Unless restrictions from the State prohibit the Farmers Market from opening this year, the City Farmer’s Market will select one local retail establishment and one local restaurant located within the City to be provided a table free of charge. All State of Michigan and Health Department orders must be followed. Instructions to apply will be made available on the City website under Community and Economic Development.

### **Share Great Ideas**

If you have implemented a great idea that’s working for your business, or heard of one, please share it with us so we can spread the concept to other businesses in Oak Park.

If you need help applying them to your business or are looking for other generalized business help, please contact Kimberly Marrone, [kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov) or call (248)691-7404.