



## MEDIA RELEASE

May 28, 2020

### Lewiston Supports Local Business by Waiving Fees and Allowing for Expanded Outside Use

The City of Lewiston is committed to work with our local business community as it meets the challenges posed by the current pandemic emergency.

On May 19, 2020, the Lewiston City Council waived certain fees and policies involving the private use of public right of way and municipally owned property to allow Lewiston businesses and organizations to use these areas for social distancing while serving their customers.

The City is also prepared to work with business owners who wish to expand outside into adjacent private parking lots or open spaces while ensuring that such expansions address public safety concerns, including separation from vehicle traffic. **All permit fees normally required for such uses have been waived.**

Accommodations will include: permitting commercial activities within city parks and open spaces and waiving any park use fees; waiving sidewalk and street occupancy fees; authorizing a business to occupy sidewalks near, but not adjacent to, their property with permission from the adjacent property owner; granting permission to occupy designated on-street parking spaces for outside dining and sales if approved by designated staff; being granted permission to use outdoor areas controlled by the City; and allowing for expansion onto private parking areas or open spaces that a business or organization controls while ensuring such expansions will ensure public safety. The City will do its best to accommodate all requests while recognizing the public's right to use and travel through these areas.

According to Mayor Mark Cayer, *"The current pandemic emergency places incredible burdens on our local businesses, and the restrictions on indoor dining that remain in effect further disadvantage some Lewiston businesses. The City Council and staff are committed to work closely with our business community to overcome these obstacles and allow them to return to serving our residents."*

Additional information is available at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/businessoutside](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/businessoutside)

Businesses interested in using City owned or controlled outdoor spaces such as sidewalks and parks should contact the City Clerk's Office at 513-3124.

Businesses interested in expanding their operations into adjacent privately owned property, such as parking lots and lawns, should contact Code Enforcement at 513-3125.

Permission for such uses will remain in place until ten days after all social distancing restrictions have been eliminated or November 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

Businesses that serve alcohol must also apply for a permit from the Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages.

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