

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of COVID-19 Social Distancing and)
Community Mitigation Measures, Including)
On-Premises Restaurant Closures, Economic)
Development, and Polk County Annual Restaurant)
License Fees for 2021)

ORDER NO. 20-09

WHEREAS, Eating and drinking establishments are a vital part of the local economy and, based on State of Oregon Employment Department data, over 13,000 people were working in the accommodation and food services industry in the Salem Metropolitan Service Area in February of 2020; and

WHEREAS, In order to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), On March 17, 2020 Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order No. 20-07 which enacted social distancing and community mitigation measures including the prohibition of on-premises consumption of food and drink; and

WHEREAS, Polk County had licensed 171 eating and drinking establishments on March 17, 2020 that were thereby ordered to either offer food or drink for off-premises consumption or for delivery, or close; and

WHEREAS, Eating and drinking establishments are among the hardest hit industries impacted by protective measures enacted by the Governor which is contributing to record layoffs across the State including Polk County; and

WHEREAS, The Oregon Health Authority requires eating and drinking establishments to obtain an Annual Restaurant License and pay the applicable fees which can exceed \$700 to operate; and

WHEREAS, Polk County is an agent of the Oregon Health Authority and issues Annual Restaurant Licenses on behalf of the Oregon Health Authority for eating and drinking establishments within its jurisdictional boundary; and

WHEREAS, The Polk County Board of Commissioners recognize the economic hardship eating and drinking establishments in Polk County have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and desire a strong economic recovery with the ability for these eating and drinking establishments to survive through the social distancing and community mitigation measures and recall workers; and

WHEREAS, Planning for anticipated operational expenses, including annual licensing fees, can delay recovery and the ability to recall workers; and

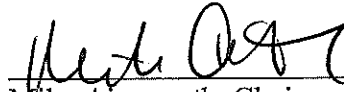
WHEREAS, On April 08, 2020, the Polk County Board of Commissioners conducted a public meeting and considered the use of Polk County Economic Development funds to pay the cost of the next Annual Restaurant License, including State remittance fees, for restaurants that maintained a valid Polk County Restaurant License on March 17, 2020; now, therefore


THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) The Polk County Community Development Department, Environmental Health Division shall accept and issue, without payment, a 2021 Annual Restaurant License for any complete application submitted by a restaurant that maintained a valid Polk County issued Annual 2020 Restaurant License on March 17, 2020.
- (2) This Order does not replace or supersede any Oregon Health Authority food service regulations related to the application or enforcement of the food safety program in Polk County.
- (3) This Order does not apply to any Variance to the food sanitation rules or Plan Review Applications for facilities that are being constructed or remodeled.

Dallas, Oregon, April 08, 2020

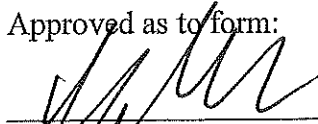
POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Mike Ainsworth, Chair


Craig Pope, Commissioner


Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

Approved as to form:


Morgan Smith
County Counsel

First Reading: 4-8-2020

Second Reading: N/A

Recording Secretary: N/A