



BAKERSFIELD

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

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CITY OF BAKERSFIELD TO OFFER BUSINESS REOPENING ASSISTANCE

As California begins to reopen its economy statewide as the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, the City of Bakersfield wants to help local businesses that are looking for creative ways to reopen and provide services to the public while also limiting any public health risks.

On Wednesday, May 20, the Bakersfield City Council unanimously approved an amendment to the City's Special Event Permit process to help businesses comply with the state's mandated social distancing requirements for reopening in Stage 2 of the state's reopening plan.

The City has created a process for business owners to apply for a permit to temporarily close private parking lots throughout the City, or public streets and sidewalks in Downtown Bakersfield in order to allow businesses to set up outdoor dining seating and/or retail vending areas each day.

The City's Special Event Permit process has been amended to include a new "COVID-19 Special Event Permit," which will allow the temporary closure of streets, sidewalks and parking lots on private property to be used for dining and vending space. This is made possible through the City's Emergency Declaration, issued on March 19, 2020. The COVID-19 Special Event Permit will be available throughout the duration of the Emergency Declaration.

Businesses wishing to take advantage of this assistance can apply for the permit [here](#) and by following the steps and safety criteria outlined in the accompanying document.

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Steps to Obtain “COVID-19 Special Event Permit”

1. Complete the ["Special Event Permit Application"](#) with the additional information, as listed below in Table 1.
NOTE: It is recommended that businesses meet with the Development Services (parking lots) or Public Works (street/sidewalks) Staff early and as they are designing the site plan. City Staff is available to provide feedback on appropriate health and safety requirements, potential ADA requirements, etc.
2. Submit completed application, supplemental information, and fee to the City of Bakersfield.
3. Obtain special event permit approval and Site Inspection from the appropriate City Department(s).

Table 1. “COVID-19 Special Event Permit” Supplemental Application Information (Include with Application)	
General Information Section:	
1. Under Event Name, list the Business Name that will be using the space	
2. List existing indoor square footage and proposed outdoor square footage.	
Event Description Section:	
1. List number of parking spaces to be closed (if applicable)	
2. List method and materials for blocking parking spaces, sidewalk, or street (See Table 2 for options)	
Insurance Requirements Section:	
1. Note: the City will review each application to determine appropriate insurance and liability requirements.	
General Description of Event Section:	
1. Below the options, write in “Other, COVID-19 SEP for parking lot” OR	
2. Below the options, write in “Other, COVID-19 SEP for public street/sidewalk”	
Event Site Plan Information Section: <i>Ensure that the site plan also illustrates the following:</i>	
1. That the project will adhere to all Health & Safety Criteria, as listed in Table 2.	
2. Which parking spaces will be blocked.	
3. Location of any tables, chairs, walk-aisles and other temporary materials (Awnings, tents, electrical, etc.)	
4. Demonstrate compliance with all applicable ADA requirements; including but not limited to: ADA accessible dining table, illustrate a clear path to table, demonstrate slope and cross slope max 2% in any direction, path of travel to sanitation facilities, path of travel to and from a ADA parking stall, etc.	
5. Identify restroom facilities that will be available to patrons.	
6. Demonstrate there will be continued circulation within Parking lot.	
Event Site Services Section:	
1. Describe plan for maintenance/cleaning of the closed area.	
Required Documents Section:	
1. For Parking Lots, written authorization from property owner and management company (if applicable).	
2. California Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) written authorization for beverage services outside of original premises (if business is permitted by the ABC)	
3. Kern County Health Department authorization (if business permitted by the County)	
4. Copy of any other COVID-10 related “Reopening Plan and/or permit” from the State (if applicable)	

Table 2. Health & Safety Criteria	
Parking Lots:	Public Streets & Sidewalks
1. Closure shall be limited to up to 50% of the total number of required parking spaces.	1. Street closure shall be limited to a maximum of half streets within the Downtown area only.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Closure shall occur between the hours of 10am and 10pm; with all materials removed by 10pm each day.3. Parking spaces shall be barricaded at the applicant's cost, using mobile material approved by the Public Works Director and Fire Prevention Director. (Mobile fencing without lock, no k-rail).4. No blocking of ADA Parking stalls or paths5. No blocking of Emergency and/or Service Truck access (hydrants, fire, trash, deliveries, etc.)6. No blocking ingress/egress points to public streets.7. No amplified music in parking area	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Closure shall occur between the hours of 10am and 10pm; with all materials removed by 10pm each day.3. Streets shall be barricaded at the applicant's cost, using mobile material approved by the Public Works Director and Fire Prevention Director, and which also meets MUTCD requirements. (mobile fencing without lock, no k-rail)4. For half-street, closure materials shall be located at intersections and not at mid-block locations.5. No closure of arterial and collector streets, local streets only, subject to City approval.7. No blocking of ADA Parking stalls or paths9. No blocking of Emergency and/or Service Truck access (hydrants, fire, trash, deliveries, etc.)10. No blocking ingress/egress points to public streets.11. No amplified music in sidewalk/street area
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