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For Immediate Release

Birmingham City Commission Approves Extended COVID Relief Initiatives

Free parking in structures through June 30, 2021, plus eased restrictions on outdoor dining and signage.

BIRMINGHAM, MI, March 9, 2021 – On Monday, March 8, the Birmingham City Commission approved the continuation of economic assistance measures and operational initiatives to assist the community. These initiatives are in place to mitigate the COVID-19 challenges residents and businesses continue to face.

Last year, the City worked to identify measures that made a positive economic impact while helping the community to feel safe as they re-engaged in activities such as visiting a park or heading downtown to shop or dine. City leaders revisited some of these initiatives during their March 8, 2021 meeting and determined the following measures will be extended:

- Temporary signage relating to hours of operation, pick-up and delivery services and specials offered during the pandemic may continue through July 1, 2021 for businesses that adhere to specified requirements.
- Temporary COVID-19 Off-Season Outdoor Dining Standards that permit food and drink establishments to operate expanded off-season outdoor dining areas in accordance with established temporary COVID-19 standards through June 30, 2021 (businesses with existing permits set to expire March 31, 2021 must reapply for a permit for the period between March 31, 2021 and June 30, 2021).
- Free parking in the parking structures and waived parking fees for monthly permit parking holders through June 30, 2021.

Other measures established last year that remain in place include: waived e-check fees for online payments through June 30, 2021; online forms and payments; access to BS&A public records; hand sanitizer stations in all parking structures and high pedestrian traffic areas; and dedicated curbside pick-up locations for restaurants and retailers.

“It is our hope these continued efforts will provide relief as the community continues to be impacted by the pandemic,” said Human Resources Director/Assistant City Manager Jim Hock.

In conjunction with the City’s efforts to address the economic impacts of COVID-19, the Birmingham Shopping District (BSD) recently held special events to assist restaurants and retailers, and coordinated the allocation of Oakland County grants for restaurants. To date, Birmingham restaurants have received nearly \$110,000 from Oakland County in the form of one or more of the following: reimbursement for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID-related expenses, outdoor propane heaters, electrostatic sprayers, disinfectant, greenhouses, igloos and more. Through the grant, restaurants are able to exchange their empty propane tanks for full tanks at the Birmingham Fire Department. The BSD also continues to provide masks and sanitizing wipes to support Birmingham businesses, and offers drive-through pickup opportunities to distribute these items along with PPE from Oakland County.

Learn more about Birmingham’s COVID relief initiatives at www.bhamgov.org/virusprevention.

City of Birmingham – A Walkable Community. Visit the city’s web site at www.bhamgov.org.

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