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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented economic disruption worldwide and within our local business community. While nearly all businesses have been negatively impacted, restaurants and bars have been especially hard-hit.

Restaurants and bars are key contributors to the vitality of downtown and have been unable to offer dine-in service at 100% occupancy for over 10 months. It is expected that these establishments will continue to be restricted to approximately half of their pre-COVID level. It is also essential for these businesses to provide environments that meet consumer health expectations. For these reasons, demand for outdoor dining is expected to increase even throughout spring and summer of 2021. Previously established outdoor dining areas almost certainly will be inadequate to meet the increased demand, since the seating capacity of those areas will be reduced by the requirement for increased physical distancing between parties.

On July 1st, 2020 the Michigan legislature amended 1998 PA 58 to allow local governmental units to establish within their boundaries a Social District and within the Social District a Commons area where patrons of properly permitted, licensed alcohol providers may be outside with a single open container. To promote the continued development and economic vitality of Downtown Owosso, while promoting public health and social distancing, Owosso Main Street/DDA proposes the creation of a Social District as defined by 1998 PA 58 - Sec. 551 and the creation of a Commons area within the Social District as described below. A map with the proposed boundaries of the Social District is attached to this document.

Owosso Main Street/DDA is proposing the formation of one (1) Commons area. This proposed area is as follows:

- *Downtown Commons*
  - The area the sidewalk of Washington Street from Mason Street (north) to Jerome Street (south), and the entirety of public parking lot known as Main Street Plaza; the sidewalk of Exchange Street from Park Street (east) to Water Street (west), and the entirety of the area around the downtown water fountain; the sidewalk of Comstock Street from Saginaw Street (east) to Washington Street (west).



- Please see the attached map for visual reference.

Boundaries of the Commons area will be clearly marked by signs indicating that beverages may not leave the Commons area and additional signage within the Commons area outline the expected rules of conduct. The Commons would be available to the customers of properly permitted Qualified Licensees during the following times:

*Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 10:00PM*

*Sunday from 12:00PM to 10:00PM*

To comply with Sec 551. (2) the OMS/DDA will acquire and provide branded beverage containers to holders of a Social District Permit for the sale of alcoholic liquor to be consumed within the Commons area. Any revenue derived from the provision of beverage containers will be used for the administration and maintenance of the Commons area including signage and trash collection and or for maintenance and administration of the Social District. As administrator of the Social District, the OMS/DDA will be the only provider of beverage containers to be used in the Commons area.

OMS/DDA will seek to utilize the public sidewalks, alleyways and parking lots within the Commons area to promote social distancing and as venues for seating, dining and entertainment. We envision an environment where patrons can move freely within the Commons area and wander into shops and dining establishments. Pursuant to 551 (4) the beverage containers may not be removed from the Commons area and may not be taken into any establishment other than where they were purchased. Therefore, OMS/DDA will plan to provide compostable PLA plastic cups and designated cup collection stations throughout the Commons area.

Boundaries of the Commons area will be clearly marked by signs indicating that beverages may not leave the Commons area with additional signage within the Commons area outline the expected rules of conduct.

Beverages to be consumed in the Commons area may only be purchase by properly permitted, licensed providers that are within or contiguous to the Commons area.

Beverages to be consumed in the commons may only be sold in the official Commons branded beverage containers. These are proposed to be single use 16oz compostable PLA plastic cups.

Beverage cup collection stations will be near the entry to any Permitted provider and otherwise

dispersed throughout the Commons area.

Signage will be placed at the borders of the Commons area to remind patrons not to remove beverage cups from the Commons.

Except as defined by Sec.551 all laws regarding public intoxication and open containers still apply in the Commons area.

