

December 16, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager
Subject: Parklet Program

202002130

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202001207

On September 28, 2020, the Neighborhoods Committee referred the following for a report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Sittenfeld, dated 8/4/2020, WE MOVE that the City Administration prepare a report on the feasibility of implementing a Parklet Program utilizing City-controlled right of way for Cincinnati restaurants looking to expand outdoor dining throughout the duration of the pandemic and beyond. Parklets would be procured, owned, and operated by local businesses for enhanced dining operations, and the City would collect revenues associated with the use of the right of way.

The following report addresses the feasibility of implementing a Parklet Program, utilizing City-controlled rights-of-way, for Cincinnati restaurants looking to expand outdoor dining throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

On May 13, 2020, Mayor John Cranley and City Health Commissioner Melba R. Moore issued joint Emergency Order No. 11 authorizing the City Administration to implement a temporary outdoor dining program to provide expanded outdoor seating options at restaurants and bars in Cincinnati. In response, the City Administration launched an Outdoor Street Dining Pilot Program that allows for suspension of certain code and permit requirements to allow restaurants to apply for expedited City approval of a revocable street privilege (“RSP”) to use the public right-of-way (streets, sidewalks) for temporary outdoor dining areas (“Outdoor Street Dining”).

To date, the City has approved 69 RSPs under this program. Based on this success, the City Administration anticipates a continuation of the program and is currently in the process of updating the program’s guidelines accordingly.