

PROMPT ACTION NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR DINING IN CHICAGO

Chicago's neighborhood restaurants suffered greatly during the pandemic. When people were unable to gather indoors at restaurants, outdoor dining became the viable alternative.

Chicago policymakers took action to provide restaurants with more flexibility and to build on the popularity of outdoor dining in our city. Last summer's proactive policies sparked economic development in neighborhoods throughout Chicago. It appears these policies have not been reinstated this year, leaving restaurants and local communities uncertain how outdoor dining will be regulated.

The Small Business Advocacy Council and local chambers urge policymakers to take this prompt action:

- Reinstatement of the policy that allows restaurants to expand outdoor dining to their parking lots.
- Reinstatement of the policy that allows restaurants to expand outdoor dining to adjacent storefronts and parking lots, with the permission of the property owner.
- Reduction of the Sidewalk Café Permit fee by 75%, as was done in 2022.
- Call for discussions and communications with policymakers and stakeholders to provide clarity, and consistency as it pertains to street closure programs in local communities.

Chicago's outdoor dining season is short, and eating outdoors has provided so much benefit to restaurants and local communities. Prompt action is needed to support outdoor dining in Chicago.

LIST OF SUPPORTERS

Albany Park Chamber of Commerce

Andersonville Chamber of Commerce

Edgewater Chamber of Commerce

Gladstone Park Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Englewood Chamber of
Commerce

Greater River North Business
Association

Greater Roseland Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Roseland Chamber of
Commerce

Illinois Craft Brewers Guild

Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce

Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce

Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of
Commerce

Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce

Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber
of Commerce

Little Village Chamber of Commerce

Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

Midway Chamber of Commerce

Milwaukee Avenue Alliance

NAWBO Chicago

North Lawndale Chamber of
Commerce

North River Commission

Quad Communities Development
Corporation

Rogers Park Business Alliance

South Shore Chamber of Commerce

Southeast Chicago Commission

Uptown Chamber of Commerce

West Town Chamber of Commerce

Woodlawn Chamber of Commerce