



Item Number: 1
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution recommending approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission of Social District Permit applications pursuant to Public Act 124 of 2020**

Public Act 124 of 2020 as amended empowers local communities to designate “Social Districts” containing “Commons Areas” where purchasers may consume alcoholic beverages sold by multiple qualified Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) licensees who obtain an MLCC Social District Permit. (Note: The Social District concept is distinct from, but may overlap with, permitted parklets and other outdoor seating areas.)

PA 124 specifies a 2-step process before a qualified licensee may use a Social District Permit:

1. City Commission designation of a Social District containing Commons Areas
2. City Commission recommendation of Social District Permit applications followed by MLCC issuance of Social District Permits

To date, the City Commission has designated eleven Social Districts: Downtown Grand Rapids, Wealthy Street, West Fulton, Creston, Fourth & Stocking, Michigan Street, West Leonard, East Fulton, East Hills, Cheshire Village, and Alger Heights.

The attached resolution recommends approval by MLCC of Social District Permit applications from the following MLCC qualified licensees, all located within the East Hills Social District:

- a) ERG Restaurants III, LLC dba Grove; 919 Cherry St SE
- b) Long Road Distillers LLC dba Less Travelled; 959 Cherry St SE
- c) Pickwick, Inc.; 970 Cherry St SE
- d) The Meanwhile Bar, Inc.; 1005 Wealthy St SE
- e) Chateau Grand Rapids LLC; 955 Cherry St SE

City staff will be available to answer your questions about the proposed resolution at the City Commission meeting on July 16, 2024. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution recommending approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission of Social District Permit applications pursuant to Public Act 124 of 2020.

WHEREAS:

1. Increasing the availability of outdoor dining space will help increase the vibrancy of downtown and neighborhood business districts; and
2. Public Act 124 of 2020 as amended empowers the City Commission to designate Social Districts with Commons Areas where purchasers may consume alcoholic beverages sold by multiple qualified Michigan Liquor Control Commission licensees who obtain Social District Permits; and
3. The City Commission has designated Social Districts containing Commons Areas within the City of Grand Rapids; and
4. The City Commission has received requests from multiple qualified licensees to recommend approval of their Social District Permit applications by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission; and
5. The licensed premises of the licensees are contiguous to the Commons Areas within the designated Social Districts; and
6. The City Commission desires to recommend approval of the Social District Permit application; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That Social District Permit applications from the following licensees are recommended by the City Commission for consideration and approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission:
 - a) ERG Restaurants III, LLC dba Grove; 919 Cherry St SE
 - b) Long Road Distillers LLC dba Less Travelled; 959 Cherry St SE
 - c) Pickwick, Inc.; 970 Cherry St SE
 - d) The Meanwhile Bar, Inc.; 1005 Wealthy St SE
 - e) Chateau Grand Rapids LLC; 955 Cherry St SE; and
2. That the City Clerk is authorized and directed to provide the applicants with a certification of this action in the form specified by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW