



Item Number: 2

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: April 15, 2025

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 Downtown Grand Rapids Social District:

- a) Garden District Hospitality LLC; 55 Monroe Center St NW
- b) WB Blanton Enterprises, LLC dba Le Macaron; 132 Monroe Center St NW
- c) Nightwatch GR, LLC; 201 Fulton St W Unit 3

City staff will be available to answer your questions about the proposed resolution at the City Commission meeting on April 15, 2025. 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) Garden District Hospitality LLC; 55 Monroe Center St NW
 - b) WB Blanton Enterprises, LLC dba Le Macaron; 132 Monroe Center St NW
 - c) Nightwatch GR, LLC; 201 Fulton St W Unit 3; 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.