

Your Worship, Mayor Charlie Clark & City Councillors
222 3rd Ave N
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 075
CC: Lynn Lacroix

Dear Mayor Clark,

By way of this letter, I am submitting a collective request on behalf of Tourism Saskatoon, the Broadway BID, Downtown Saskatoon BID and Riversdale BID for City Council to consider our proposed amendments to the policies associated with building parking patios.

COVID-19 has put excruciating pressure on our business community, especially food tourism providers. Their readiness and solidarity in supporting the response to the health emergency by either closing their doors or augmenting operations completely is commendable. Our food tourism experiences uniquely connect what is being grown and produced in our area to what is being prepared in restaurants. Saskatoon's local food tourism contributes to the long-term sustainability of local agriculture, food systems and culture. The operational restrictions that most food tourism businesses are experiencing right now require the expansion of their space to accommodate more customers, to meet their bottom-line objectives, keep their staff employed and, keep their business' operational. The establishment of parking patios will support the survival of Saskatoon's food tourism if the review of taxes, charges and levies impacting this activity are reviewed and amended.

The following requests are in support of the restoration and survival of Saskatoon's food tourism industry partners:

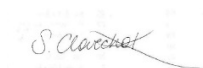
1. Provide temporary suspension of the fees per stall that are currently required to be paid prior to the issuance of a licence for the remainder of 2020 and the operating season of April – October of 2021. In alignment, we also request that any fees already collected in 2020 be reimbursed to the business' that have already paid.
2. Immediately implement the allowance of two parking patios per block face for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021 with a review of the change following this period to determine future extension of the policy.
3. Allow for parking patios to exist throughout the year without being taken down thereby reducing take down costs and aligning with the City of Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy by providing more winter experiences.

We ask that you implement these amendments with urgency as the summer season is upon us and any chance for salvation of this critical revenue-generating season requires swift action. The tourism sector has recovered from crises before and, given its proven importance at every level of society, must be supported to sustain and grow jobs again.

Your support in making these changes will not only increase much needed revenues but also could be the reason that many of our food tourism businesses survive.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vice President
Tourism Saskatoon