

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 373

Approved November 13, 2020

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted substantial economic hardship on local bars and restaurants who have, through no fault of their own, been caught trying to maintain a business model with reduced seating capacity, reduced hours, and additional overhead costs; and

WHEREAS, The City has already experienced several restaurants permanently shut down with many more struggling to keep their business operating; and

WHEREAS, The economic hardships experienced by the local hospitality industry are not limited to Providence as many restaurants and bars across Rhode Island are struggling to maintain operations; and

WHEREAS, For many bars and restaurants, the sale of alcoholic beverages represents a substantial portion of their revenue and is vital to the survival of their business model; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Rhode Island General Law §3-5-8, all liquor licenses in the State of Rhode Island, except for Class F and G licenses, expire annually on December 1<sup>st</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In an attempt to reduce the burdens placed on the local hospitality industry, the cities of Providence, Warwick, and Pawtucket have all taken steps to work with local bars and restaurants by establishing payment plan options for businesses renewing liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law §3-7-24 requires a letter of good standing from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation prior to the renewal of any liquor license within the state; and

WHEREAS, Without a partial or complete waiver of the letter of good standing requirement, many more bars and restaurants will be forced to permanently close across the state as they will face significant challenges attempting to obtain a liquor license renewal, thereby being forced to operate on even less revenue than they already are.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby requests that the Governor of the State of Rhode Island issue an executive order waiving the requirements of Rhode Island General Law §3-7-24 which requires a business to provide a letter of good standing from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation prior to renewing their liquor license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Governor of Rhode Island, the Mayor of Providence and the members of the Providence Board of Licenses.

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 05 2020

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor

Date: 11/13/20