



Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilmette Approves Additional Business Assistance Program to Support Restaurants During Stricter COVID-19 Mitigations

Eligible Restaurants Can Apply for Financial Assistance

WILMETTE, IL. – (Nov. 12, 2020) – The Wilmette Village Board approved an additional \$169,249 economic relief package to support Wilmette restaurants in response to stricter mitigations imposed by the State of Illinois in Region 10 (suburban Cook County). These new restrictions have a significant impact on the restaurant industry, including a ban on indoor dining and reduced capacity and party sizes for outdoor dining. The program is provisional: it will take effect if the current mitigations put in place on Oct. 28 extend beyond four weeks, which would be Nov. 25. The program will provide financial support to restaurants through a municipal sales tax rebate program.

Wilmette Village President Bob Bielinski stated, “Local restaurants have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, and with new restrictions that eliminate indoor dining as we move into winter months, our restaurant community needs support more than ever. The Village is proud to be able to move quickly to help put money in the hands of these local restaurants and we encourage residents to support them by ordering takeout or delivery or bringing a blanket—and mask—for outdoor dining. We hope that the federal and state governments step up with additional support that these small businesses will need to survive these unprecedented and difficult times.”

This program replicates the Village’s previous sales tax rebate program enacted in March, with the exception that funds apply only to restaurants. Under this program, the Village will rebate \$169,249 of its “municipal sales tax” back to the eligible small businesses that collected the tax. Eligible businesses can receive 50% of the amount of “municipal sales tax” they collected in 2019. To be eligible, a business must have 50% of its primary sales come from restaurant or bar service and must provide indoor dining.

In addition to receiving 50% of primary sales from restaurant or bar service and providing indoor dining, eligible restaurants must demonstrate that they have suffered a minimum 15% decrease in revenues from Oct. 28, 2020 to the date of the application when compared to the same time frame in 2019 and must

not have permanently closed. Because the program targets small businesses, businesses that generated more than \$7.5 million in annual sales in 2019 are not eligible for the program. Businesses that are part of a franchise system or part of a chain with more than four units are not eligible. Additionally, private clubs and home occupations are also not eligible. The rebate can be used for payroll, paying suppliers and vendors and other operating expenses, but cannot be used for capital improvements or rent.

Applications will be available at www.wilmette.com next week and the Village will start accepting on Nov. 25.

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Contact:

Erik Hallgren, Assistant Village Manager
hallgrene@wilmette.com