



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: December 14, 2020

Prepared By: Washington Liquor Commission

Agenda Item: Resolution to Provide Relief to On-Premise Liquor Licensees for Continued Operation

Explanation: The COVID-19 pandemic and related mitigation measures have affected all segments of the economy. Businesses that provide a social outlet, including businesses licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on premise consumption, are particularly hard hit. These businesses contribute to the fabric of the City by providing opportunities for in-person social interaction that the community has substituted, but cannot replace. These businesses are uniquely situated, both making a high-level contribution to community and subject to a high level of regulation and licensure designed to ensure responsible operation. These businesses operate now in a tenuous environment. The City would do well to promote their survival as operating entities ready to serve the public the moment pandemic mitigation measures and public support allow. An expression of support for that opportunity for in-person socialization is to reduce license fees for continuing businesses by authorizing a credit equal to liquor license fees paid this fiscal year, applicable when those businesses renew those licenses. With this expression, the City provides support that is at once intangible encouragement and predictable, tangible relief.

Affected liquor license classes are A-1 & A-2 (full bar), D (beer, wine, mixed drinks), E (clubs), G (banquet facility), J (restaurant), K (beer garden), N (Community Center), PA (BYOB), or W (winery, brewery, distiller).

Fiscal Impact: Affected fees to as of December 1, 2020, are approximately \$20,000.

**Recommendation/
Committee Discussion Summary:**

Action Requested: Consideration and approval of the attached resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

(Adoption of this resolution would support reduction in 2021-22 liquor license fees for current licensees of on-premise consumption businesses most affected by the pandemic.)

A RESOLUTION AFFECTING CHAPTER 112 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEVELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BY AUTHORIZING SOME CREDITS TOWARD FY 2021-22 ON-PREMISE LIQUOR LICENSE FEES

WHEREAS, the City Code of Ordinances at Chapter 112 provides for regulation of alcoholic beverages and related licensing; and

WHEREAS, The City of Washington recognizes the extraordinary burden the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures have placed on certain businesses that greatly contribute to the City's social fabric, and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the interest of the City to provide a certain token of support for continuing businesses affected by these burdens:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEVELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, that the Liquor Control Commissioner is authorized to apply an administrative credit equal to the license fee the holder of a Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 class A-1, A-2, D, E, G, J, K, N, PA, or W City liquor license paid in FY 2020-21 toward the license fee for a class A-1, A-2, D, E, G, J, K, N, PA, or W license for the same business for FY 2021-22;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such administrative credit has no cash value, may only serve to reduce the cost of a 2021-22 City liquor license, and may not be applied toward any other debt, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that license holders have no property interest in such administrative credit.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by City Council of the City of Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois this 21st day of December, 2020, A.D.

AYES _____

NAYS _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Date Prepared: 12/11/2020