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# Howard County

## *Internal Memorandum*

*Subject:* Testimony for CB 58-2021

*To:* Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

*From:* Shaina Hernandez, Senior Advisor for Policy  
Office of the County Executive

*Date:* July 26, 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has approved applications for temporary outdoor seating to local restaurants so that the restaurants may serve patrons outside where it is safer and less likely to spread COVID-19. Temporary outdoor seating has been an integral tool that allows restaurants to adapt to a health emergency that has been devastating to their industry and livelihood.

The Governor's State of Emergency is anticipated to end on or about August 15, 2021 and our local State of Emergency can be terminated either with the termination of the State's or by local Executive Order. In either instance, the County would like to ensure that temporary outdoor seating is extended through November 15, 2021. Council Bill No. 58-2021 is an emergency measure that enacts this goal of extending temporary outdoor seating. Specifically, it provides that an applicant for temporary Outdoor Restaurant Seating approved by the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits on or before July 21, 2021 may continue to provide outdoor seating through November 15, 2021.

There is no fiscal impact to the County to extend temporary outdoor seating. This legislation just extends already approved applications and will not result in new applications requiring the review of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.