

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
REOPEN TASK FORCE COVID-19 RESPONSE TACTICS
FY2020-21
Aug. 9, 2021

SUMMARY

The Reopen Task Force was established March 27th of 10 Delray Beach business owners, the DDA director, Chamber of Commerce President, CRA director and the City department heads. The purpose was to have representation from the private sector to provide input and assist in the navigation of the economic impacts of the pandemic. This group grew to over 30 members of the private sector representing many different sectors. They met a total of 4 times as a large group and provided direction and insights to help as Delray Beach prepared to reopen safely and effectively with ease and agility. By working together on the recovery efforts with the goal in mind to build a bridge to a vaccine, as quoted by the CEO of Starbucks.

A list of over 60 items were collected of ways to assist businesses upon reopen to be able to rebound better and more easily with immediate, short and long term needs to rebuild the economic loss. Phase One reopen was allowed on May 11 however with the new CDC protocols needed and not much advanced notice, it did take many businesses a week or two to reopen safely. Reminder this was only a few businesses and only at 25% capacity.

May 9, 2020: City Commission meeting: Due to the short notice of the announcement of Phase One reopen, only 9 items of the 60 were brought to the commission for direction. Of the 9 items these were approved:

- 1.) Parking meters to remain covered for free and ease of access to the shops and restaurants in Downtown
- 2.) Freebee transportation reopened

Others items on the list were approved administratively prior to May 9:

- 1.) Relaxing of the sign code to allow for restaurants to have banners to promote open for take out and pick up dining, retail to promote being open, CDC guidelines etc.
- 2.) Curbside pick up zones were established
- 3.) Safety banners and signage was approved to be produced by the DDA and paid for by the City, however the DDA covered all costs
- 4.) Expand the CRA grant programs

June 2, 2020: City Commission reviewed at the regular meeting reviewed the full list recommendations from the Reopen Economic Business task force. The items below were approved:

- 1.) Expansion of outside area for dining or retail use; Temporary Use permit established to address private parking lots and sidewalk café expansion
- 2.) Reopen of the Valet operations

On **August 18, 2020** the City Commission reviewed the next items from the Reopen Task force as the city was only at Phase 2 of reopen at that time after 6 months of the pandemic and the city remaining in Phase 1 only businesses operating at 50% capacity and revenues down over 60-75%.



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
REOPEN TASK FORCE COVID-19 RESPONSE TACTICS
FY2020-21
Aug. 9, 2021

The following items were approved:

- 1.) DISTANCE Dining in the Park: Outside Activation at Old School Square park and Libby Wesley
- 2.) Direct the City lobbyists to lobby the State of Florida to cap delivery fees that restaurants are charged by delivery services during the COVID-19 crisis.
- 3.) Pop up Patios and Parklets – to move forward with plan
- 4.) Develop a Retail Retention and Recruitment plan.
- 5.) Develop a plan for vacant retail storefront windows
- 6.) Valet Pilot on E. Atlantic Ave.

October 13, 2020 – City Commission Workshop – COVID19 Reopen Response measures
At this meeting the DDA and Developmental Services Director presented the measures in place and determine the extension date along with reviewing new items from the reopen task force list of recommendations:

New items considered:

- 1.) Suspend Special events through Jan. 4
- 2.) Paid Parking – resume normal schedule
- 3.) Curbside pick up zones extend through Dec. 31
- 4.) Sidewalk Café fees discussed and were waived and direction given to negotiate with FDOT
- 5.) Storefront activation program – approved
- 6.) Temporary Outdoor Use Areas on Private Property (7)
- 7.) Temporary New and Expanded Sidewalk Cafes (9)
- 8.) Standalone bars use of outside area approved with limited hours of 9pm and all need to apply for temporary use permit
- 9.) Parklets – direction to move forward with plan off Atlantic Ave

Dec 8, 2020 City Commission meeting at the City Manager comments the request for direction on the following items was done:

- Moratorium on the special events was put into effect through March 31 for outside promoters
- Continue with the storefront activation project and the temporary use permits

Feb. 9, 2021: City Commission Meeting item 7H Review of COVID Temporary Measures:

- Special Event Moratorium to expire March 31
 - o DDA presented a safe plan for Savor the Avenue to take place in April 2021 which was discussed and approved
 - o City Commission approved events to happen in a phased approach
 - o Standalone bars to use their outside areas until 11pm 7days a week approved
 - o All other temporary measures to stay in effect through Sept. 30th

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
REOPEN TASK FORCE COVID-19 RESPONSE TACTICS
FY2020-21
Aug. 9, 2021

May 11, 2021: City Commission Workshop to review Special Events in the City

- It was determined to allow only city partners and organizations to apply for events through SETAC process and the moratorium to remain in effect through Sept. 30 however events can be approved with safe plan

MOVING FORWARD IN 2021/2022

To be considered as we move into Fall 2021:

The DDA and Reopen Economic Recovery Task force strongly encourages the following temporary measures to help our economy continue to rebound continue.

Here are the recommended items to continue:

- Remove the moratorium on events and have events permitted through the SETAC process to allow outdoor events to take place
- Continue the temporary use permits through the fall and winter to allow for businesses to maximize the outdoor space with approvals which includes:
 - o Sidewalk Café
 - o Outside use for Standalone bars
 - o Temp use for parking areas
 - o Continue the relaxed sign code for retail and services
- Invest in destination rebound marketing plan led by the DDA

As we move into winter and spring, these are the best months of the year and the time for the city to shine. We request that we work together to have clear measures in place to allow for all businesses to recover and not be measured by three blocks and three nights of the week.