



City Council Staff Report

Subject: Vibrancy Ordinance 4-2-15: COVID-19 Impacts for Quarter 2
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Type of Item: Communication

Summary

Due to the impact of COVID-19, staff temporarily suspended our Vibrancy Ordinance inspections during Quarter 2 (April-June) due to the mandatory closure of businesses ordered by the Summit County Health Department. Staff will return to Council in September 2020 for a work session regarding the administration of the ordinance for the remainder of 2020 (Q3 & Q4) given the impacts to businesses on Main Street as a result of the COVID-19.

Background

In late 2017, Council adopted the [Vibrancy Ordinance /Municipal Code 4-2-15](#), a step towards a larger goal of maintaining a thriving, vibrant Main Street. Staff has administered the program by conducting quarterly vibrancy inspections with members from multiple departments (Building, Special Events, Sustainability, Planning) to monitor the status of commercial storefronts within the Historic Recreation Commercial (HRC) and Historic Commercial Business (HCB)¹ districts to ensure that businesses 1) have an active business license, and 2) are open and operating for at least 60 days per quarter. Businesses which do not meet both provisions are notified with a “Notice of Dark Storefront” letter from the Finance Department informing them that the location may not be eligible for a Single Event Temporary Liquor License.

Since its adoption, the Vibrancy Ordinance has helped reduce the vacancy rate on Main Street from 6% to approximately 3%. Additionally, locations which have been chronically vacant year round except for during Festival dates have become “vibrant” and now have leases with full-time businesses which occupy and exhibit vibrant storefronts year-round.

Issue Statement

Beginning in March 2020, several businesses within the HCB and HRC district were severely impacted by Summit County Health orders calling for their mandatory closure to slow the spread of COVID-19. As a result of the mandatory business closures, staff suspended its Vibrancy Ordinance inspection program during Q2.

Staff is prepared to continue conducting vibrancy inspections for Q3 & Q4 if Council desires, yet intends to return to in September 2020 for a work session to discuss the administration of the Ordinance for the remainder of 2020.

¹ Map of HRC and HCB districts provided under “Exhibits” on p. 2 of this report.

Exhibits

[Ordinance & 4-2-15](#)

Map of HRC & HCB (lavender & purple sections)

