

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

CC 6
1/26/2021
JC

Date: January 26, 2021

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Jeff Hogan, Senior Director - Development Services
Chenin Dow, Senior Manager - Real Estate & Economic Development

Subject: **Takeout and Chill Extension**

Recommendation:

Approve the extension of the Takeout and Chill component of the Restaurant Rescue Package through February 28, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Background:

In December, the City Council authorized the Restaurant Rescue Package to aid local restaurants, wineries, and breweries amidst the ongoing closures and limitations implemented by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the State of California in response to COVID-19.

Recognizing the vital role this industry plays in our local economy and in the quality of life for our community, the Council provided assistance designed to help sustain these businesses in the face of unprecedented challenges. These forms of assistance include:

- The Takeout and Chill Program, encompassing one-time grants; Lancaster Choice Energy bill credits; and the ability to accept gift cards issued by the City as part of the program
- Partnership with Destination Lancaster
- California Restaurant Association membership
- Marketing and support for AV Restaurant Week
- Legal assistance

Through the Takeout and Chill Program, the City issued 27,500 gift cards valued at \$20.00 each to organizations throughout the community. Participants included front-line workers, such as

health care and first responders, grocery workers, major employers, local school districts, nonprofit/charitable organizations, and more. Of these cards, 2,500 funded by Destination Lancaster were also distributed to member hotels.

Gift cards initially carried an expiration date of February 1, 2021. The proposed extension would allow recipients to use cards through February 28, 2021. This change will ensure that organizations who were closed over the holidays have sufficient time to distribute their cards, and that their employees in turn have sufficient time to utilize them before the deadline.

This extension will help assure that the purpose of the Restaurant Rescue Package – to ensure the long-term vitality of these key local businesses – is fully achieved.

CD/dw