Mayor Joe Hogsett Announces “Carry-Out Only” Parking Meter Accommodations for Restaurants Impacted by COVID-19 Restrictions

INDIANAPOLIS—Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) announced today special parking provisions that will make it easier for residents to “carry-out” from restaurants impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. As traditionally dine-in establishments adapt to social distancing measures put in place by state and local government, the City will designate up to two parking meter spaces in front of any local restaurant that requests ‘Carry-Out Parking Only’ signage.

“As a community, we are implementing measures that prioritize the health of our residents,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett, “We can't forget the businesses and employees that are impacted by these restrictions, including restaurants across Indianapolis. This program is just a start – and we have much more to do to help those affected by these restrictions. But it is my hope that this initiative will not only make it easier for residents to stop into a local establishment to pick up lunch or dinner but save them a few dollars that can be spent helping those working in the service industry.”

Vice President Zach Adamson serves as the chair of the council’s Public Works Committee and helped to coordinate this program after hearing from concerned restaurant owners about the potential impact of recently announced restrictions.

“The backbone of the American economy is the small business. Indianapolis has an emerging and vibrant dining culture and these small businesses are a major employer for tens of thousands our fellow residents,” said Councillor Adamson. “The city is committed to doing what we can to ensure a degree of continuity for these eateries while maintaining the recommendations from our local health departments to prevent gatherings of people in one place at the same time. We will overcome this crisis, together, and when we do the City of Indianapolis wants our growing culinary scene to be intact.”

Restaurant owners looking to request signage should email their business name, owner name, contact information, parking zone, and restaurant location to carryoutparking@indy.gov. Signage will be placed as soon as possible, given the volume of requests.
The Marion County Public Health Department yesterday ordered that restaurants are prohibited from serving food to dine-in customers starting from 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, but may continue to prepare and offer food via carry-out, delivery, or drive-thru. The announcement came in conjunction with an executive order from Mayor Hogsett declaring a local disaster emergency in Marion County for seven days; the Indianapolis City-County Council voted unanimously Monday night to extend this emergency declaration and accompanying disease prevention measures through April 5, 2020.

Impacted residents and businesses should visit the city’s COVID-19 resource guide, which can be viewed at indy.gov/covid. The mobile friendly site connects individuals, students, and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with community resources. Spanish speaking residents can view the Resource Guide here. Individuals who are unable to navigate the city’s website can call 317-327-4MAC between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to talk to a customer service representative.

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