SIDEWALK CAFÉ STANDARDS

Safe and enjoyable outdoor dining is encouraged through the provisions of the Sidewalk Café Ordinance and other laws for legally established restaurants as outlined below:

- **Accessibility.** A minimum of four feet of unobstructed sidewalk is recommended to allow clear access for people of all abilities between the outdoor dining area (including tables, chairs, umbrellas, signs, and other dining amenities that are placed on the sidewalk adjacent to the eatery) and any other permanent or temporary structures or devices (including but not limited to trees, parking meters, utility poles, bike racks, trash cans, flower beds, or other items that may be placed between the building and the curb line).

- **Parking.** Restaurants with parking that conforms to City standards may request up to eight chairs or 10% of the number of spaces lawfully allowed in the interior, whichever is greater, without requiring additional parking spaces or triggering a special permit requirement. If more seats are desired, parking must be provided in conformance with the City’s parking regulations and may be subject to a special permit. The staff of the Departments of Planning or Inspectional Services can assist applicants in determining the parking required for a business, as well as ways to meet the requirement. No new parking spaces will be required if existing seats from inside the restaurant are moved outside and no more than eight new chairs (or a number that represents no more than 10% of the number of seats allowed inside the restaurant) are added beyond that which were approved in order for the restaurant to begin operations.

- **Alcohol.** A restaurant that has a license to sell alcohol inside the premises may also serve alcohol outdoors within an approved area designated for restaurant service. Before selling alcohol outside, the restaurant must get a license from the Board of License Commissioners for an extension of premises. All legal requirements for sale of alcohol must be honored. Such establishments also must post a sign at all exits stating: “It is unlawful to consume alcoholic beverages not purchased on the premises or to remove them from the boundaries of this sidewalk café.”

- **Designated dining area.** Where alcohol is served, the area where it is consumed or served must be clearly delineated with a barrier such as a planter, rope, handrail, or other feature that separates it from the sidewalk and is no less than three feet in height, stable, removable, and not fastened to the sidewalk. No alcohol may be served or carried beyond this designated area. Where alcohol is not served, such barriers are allowed, but not required. Only those areas immediately adjacent to the building where the restaurant is located may be used for outdoor dining and dining may not spill over to areas in front of adjacent properties. There are no seasonal restrictions on when tables and chairs can be placed on the sidewalk, as the weather will determine whether they will be used.

- **Maintenance.** The area surrounding the café shall be free of litter, debris, food, and wrappers within 25 feet of the premises. Restaurants shall provide their own containers and shall not place their trash in City containers.

- **Liability insurance.** The applicant shall be required to provide general liability insurance with limits of not less than $500,000 for the term of the sidewalk café permit, which names the City as additionally insured.

- **Sun protection.** Umbrellas and awnings that offer protection from the elements and enliven the streetscape are encouraged. Building permits may be required for awnings, so it is best to provide a rendering of any proposed awning to the Department of Inspectional Services to make that determination in advance of ordering or installing such features. Umbrellas must be secured while in use.

- **Noise.** Restaurants must comply with the Noise Ordinance and may not use loudspeakers from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.