

RESOLUTION NO. 1245-25

A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE ALLOWANCE FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING WHILE DISCONTINUING THE EXEMPTION ALLOWING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES SUCH AS TENTS IN THE TOWN OF BEL AIR

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland proclaimed a state of emergency, on March 5, 2020, and later enacted multiple safety measures, including prohibiting all restaurants and bars from providing food or beverages for consumption on premises, for the entire state of Maryland, due to the impending threat and continuing impact of the contagious disease known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners supported and enforced these measures while simultaneously taking additional actions, in accordance with the Governor's executive orders, to promote economic recovery by permitting expanded outdoor seating at restaurants, bars, and breweries, and suspending certain provisions of the Bel Air Town Code, including but not limited to, the use of temporary structures (tents); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland, as of March 12, 2021, has allowed restaurants and bars to operate at full capacity for indoor dining; and

WHEREAS, outdoor seating at restaurants, bars, breweries, and nightclubs remains a valuable and popular option for patrons and businesses in the Town of Bel Air; and

WHEREAS, the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners recognizes the importance of maintaining outdoor dining opportunities to support local businesses and promote community engagement while balancing the need to address other concerns related to temporary structures (tents); and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1221-24 is set to expire on March 31, 2025, unless extended or amended by the Board of Town Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners that provisions of the Bel Air Town Code, including but not limited to Chapter 165 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pertaining to temporary use permits, shall remain suspended to allow for continued outdoor dining operations, such as tables, chairs, and umbrellas, until September 30, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners that provisions of the Bel Air Town Code specifically pertaining to the use of temporary structures (tents) for outdoor dining or bar service shall be enforced and must comply with all applicable code regulations after expiration of Resolution 1221-24 on March 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners that provisions of the Bel Air Town Code, specifically pertaining to establishments that wish to have an outdoor event, including entertainment, live bands, musicians, or music, amplified or otherwise, on a portion of their property that is not designated for the desired use, shall be enforced and must comply with all applicable code regulations after expiration of Resolution 1221-24 on March 31, 2025.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its passage.

INTRODUCTION: February 3, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING: February 18, 2025

ENACTMENT:

EFFECTIVE:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Paula S. Etting, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk