



May 26, 2021

Englewood City Council
1000 Englewood Parkway
Englewood, CO 80110

Dear Englewood City Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Englewood Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors regarding the rescinding of the COVID response emergency order.

The EDDA was created to be a champion of the downtown district, working to make it more economically vibrant, connected, safe and green. Several provisions of the order are consistent with the goals in the Englewood Downtown Plan: expanded outdoor dining spaces, the use of propane heaters and fire pits, and entertainment districts. These provisions were a lifeline for downtown restaurants and bars in 2020. They also enlivened downtown and made neglected areas cleaner and safer for community members to socialize at a distance with friends and loved ones.

These downtown adaptations are a pathway to economic recovery for local restaurants and bars, many of which suffered losses of 40-80 percent in annual revenues last year due to health orders. But as importantly, they offer a way for local businesses to expand and grow over time. During the 2020 Downtown Matters planning process, a top community priority was supporting local businesses that maintain our unique character. Many of our local businesses, especially those located along our main streets--South Broadway and Old Hampden--operate in constrained space. The additional revenue from an outdoor patio or beverage sales in an entertainment district could help them rise with the tide over the long term.

Here's how our local experience is informing related state policies:

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2021/05/26/colorado-alcohol-to-go-pandemic-prohibition-era-law/>

In 2020, the community also prioritized a feeling of activity, fun and safety for Downtown Englewood. These are exactly the kinds of programs that achieve those goals. That they were enacted quickly during an emergency gave us a chance to see and experience them in action. Let's learn from our pandemic experience and codify these provisions to support an economically—and physically--healthy downtown district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hilarie Portell'.

Hilarie Portell, Interim Executive Director
Englewood Downtown Development Authority

Cc:

Englewood Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors:

Erika Zierke, President, Owner of The Englewood Grand
Blake Calvert, Vice President, Owner of CORE Consultants, Inc.

Brad Nixon, Treasurer, Owner of Nixon's Coffee House

Amy Gallegos, Member, Owner of Eye Logic

Diane Reinhard, Member, Vice President Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer, Craig Hospital

Othoniel Sierra, Member, Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Member

Hugo Weinberger, Member, President of Situs Real Estate

Shawn Lewis, Englewood City Manager