

Sixth
month
option
approved
5.5.2020

PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**PROVIDING PERMITTING RELIEF
TO FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has required extraordinary measures to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee’s order to close all but “essential” businesses has prevented many food establishments permitted by the Whatcom County Health Department from fully operating; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee’s subsequent “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order has further reduced patronage for some businesses permitted by the Whatcom County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, affected businesses are important to the economic health of our community; and

WHEREAS, affected businesses may be unable to pay for operating permit renewal due to loss of revenue; and

WHEREAS, business closures will result in a loss of jobs and a loss in revenue that funds essential County services;

FINDING OF FACT:

1. The proposal here is to extend permit expiration dates by ~~three (3)~~ or six (6) months, thereby extending the deadline for fees by ~~three (3)~~ or six (6) months.
2. Late fee waivers are also contemplated. The financial impact from waiving late fees for food establishments would be a reduction in 2020 revenue of approximately **\$5000.00**. These waivers shall be implemented by executive order.
3. The financial impact from extension of permit expiration dates would be approximately:
 - A 2020 revenue reduction of approximately **\$153,000.00** if extending permit expiration dates by three (3) months.
 - A 2020 revenue reduction of approximately **\$327,000.00** if extending permit expiration dates by six (6) months.
4. The proposed timeframe used to determine which businesses will receive this relief is March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021, because all operators whose permit expiration dates fall within this time frame will be affected during that year by business restrictions ordered by Governor Inslee.