

## CITY OF JERSEY CITY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Report of Director 8.2 Meeting 06.10.20

STEVEN M. FULOP MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

E.O 2020-<u>608</u>

## OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY

WHEREAS, the State and Local states of emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 crisis have dramatically reduced the availability of open public places for the people City of Jersey City that allow for safe compliance with social distancing directives and best practices; and,

WHEREAS, the re-opening of businesses, including restaurants and cafes, will involve limited seating capacity and a reduction in operating hours, cutting into sales and therefore the profits required to pay wages and basic operating expenses; and,

WHEREAS, restaurants and cafes substantially contribute both to the local economy and the overall welfare of our residents through employment and other community support initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jersey City, in an effort to encourage best practices for social distancing during the current pandemic, as well as support its financially troubled restaurant community, seeks to expand both the availability of safe public spaces as well as seating areas for restaurants; and,

WHEREAS, the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Mall, initially opened in 2015 and expanded in 2018, has proven to be an economic and cultural boon to the City, and has created a place for residents to congregate safely away from automobile traffic and practice social distancing, while also allowing restaurants on the Mall to increase outdoor seating and dining options; and

WHEREAS, the Grove Street corridor from First Street to Grand Street is home to many restaurants and businesses that would benefit from the expanded outdoor space and pedestrian accessibility afforded to businesses currently located on the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Mall; and

WHEREAS, under the current state of emergency, the City has a substantial interest in providing economic support to job-creating businesses and opportunities for its residents to safely congregate while observing social distancing guidelines; and,

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by law as Mayor of the City of Jersey City, I hereby issue this Executive Order:

1. The Division of Engineering, Traffic & Transportation and Department of Public Works shall take all necessary steps to temporarily expand the boundaries of the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Mall to allow for expanded restaurant seating and safe pedestrian accessibility and social distancing on the Grove Street commercial corridor and other adjacent areas as follows:

- a. Grove Street from the south side of First Street to the north side of Christopher Columbus Drive shall be closed to all regular vehicular traffic, with the exception of necessary access for deliveries and emergency vehicles; and
- b. Grove Street from the south side of Christopher Columbus Drive to the north side of Grand Street shall be open for northbound vehicular traffic only, with the exception of necessary access for deliveries and emergency vehicles; and
- c. First Street from the north side of Newark Avenue to the west side of Jersey Avenue shall be closed to all regular vehicular traffic, with the exception of necessary access for deliveries and emergency vehicles; and
- d. All lanes of Christopher Columbus Drive and all other streets intersecting Grove Street shall remain open to traffic for the duration of this Order.
- e. The Division of Engineering, Traffic & Transportation shall designate short-term curbside pickup/delivery spaces on intersecting streets adjacent to the expanded Mall that will allow drivers to receive carryout/delivery orders from restaurants affected by any loss of parking.
- 2. All policies, procedures, terms, and conditions contained in the "Newark Avenue Pedestrian Mall Operating Plan" shall apply to the expanded Mall portions set forth in Section 1 above for the duration of this Order; and
- 3. This Executive Order shall be effective from June 1, 2020, through September 7, 2020, unless otherwise repealed or modified.

If any provision of this Executive Order, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Executive Order to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

The Executive Order shall be kept on file in the Offices of the City Clerk and Business Administrator. It will be made available to the public upon request.

By:

May 29, 2020

TEVEN M. FULOP

MAYOR