

**A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE 90-DAY PILOT OPEN CONTAINER ZONE IN
SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE VICTORIAN NEIGHBORHOOD, THOMAS SQUARE
NEIGHBORHOOD AND FORSYTH PARK**

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen recognize the Victorian Neighborhood Association and their request to expand the Open Container Zone in a specific area within the Victorian District; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen acknowledge that in March 2019 the Victorian Neighborhood Association agreed to move forward in exploring the extension of the Open Container Zone and, in April 2019 conducted an online survey of its members which indicated more than 80% of the respondents favored extending the Open Container Zone into the Victorian District; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen accepts the petition submitted in September 2019 by the Victorian Neighborhood Association with 280 signatures from street addresses of residents and businesses within the Victorian Neighborhood confirming their support to expand the Open Container Zone to the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen recognize and appreciate the Victorian Neighborhood Association's concerns pertaining to infrastructure and public safety and propose a 90-day pilot program to extend the Open Container Zone from the centerline of Park Avenue between the centerline of Whitaker Street to the centerline of Drayton Street and along Bull Street from the centerline of Park Avenue to the centerline of Anderson Lane;

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen approved a 90-day pilot program commencing on January 1, 2020 and terminating on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, shortly before termination of the initial 90-day pilot program, federal, state, and local emergency health declarations were issued due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, which served to disrupt government operations, including necessitating that meetings of the City Council be conducted remotely; and

WHEREAS, the 90-day pilot program expired; however, additional study is needed and the Mayor and Aldermen have been provided with information demonstrating continued support for the program within the specified area; and

WHEREAS, the impact of a nearly six month-long forced virtual closure together with significantly restricted operational requirements associated with now permitted limited dine-in services and bars have inflicted financial harm on restaurant and bar operators and owners, which has, in turn, imposed tremendous financial distress on their employees, in large part comprised of dis- or lesser- advantaged Savannah residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah wish to adopt considered measures to aid, to the extent possible, in the financial recovery of restaurants and bars, to include their employees, while requiring responsible conduct that, at a minimum, complies with principles of social distancing and other measures intended to inhibit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Pilot Open Container Zones shall be extended for an additional 90-days for these areas:

Zone 1: The Victorian Neighborhood to include the area from the centerline of Park Avenue between the centerline of Whitaker Street to the centerline of Drayton Street and along Bull Street from the centerline of Park Avenue to the centerline of Anderson Lane;

Zone 2: The Thomas Square Neighborhood to include the area from the centerline of Anderson Lane to the centerline of Victory Drive along Bull Street to include DeSoto Avenue between 40th Street and Maupas Lane;

Zone 3: Forsyth Park to include the area from the centerline of Hall Street between Drayton Street and Whitaker Street to the centerline of Park Avenue and within Forsyth Park to include the northern portion of the Fort at Forsyth Park;

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Aldermen will evaluate the extended pilot Open Container Zone expansion when the extension of the 90-day Pilot Open Container Zones upon its expiration and provide a formal recommendation regarding a possible amendment to Code of Ordinances, Part 6, Article H, Division 3, Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance, Sec. 6-1214 including these areas in the Open Container Zone.

WHEREAS, any Open Container Pilot Zone found to be in violation of the spirit and/or intent of this Resolution may lose the privileges upon a written finding of the City Manager, which shall be provided to the Mayor and Aldermen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah that the 90-day pilot Open Container Zone expansion in specific areas of the Victorian Neighborhood, Thomas Square Neighborhood and Forsyth Park be re-adopted and extended. This shall commence on November 12, 2020 and extend through February 12, 2020.

Adopted this the 12th day of November 2020.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

By: _____
Van R. Johnson II, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mark Massey, Clerk of Council