

READ IN MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
KATHRYN BARGER

September 29, 2020

Reopening of Breweries and Wineries for Outside Operations

Since the “Safer at Home” order was issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in Los Angeles County (County), many industries and sectors of our economy have been detrimentally impacted. In order to balance people’s health and safety with their economic welfare, DPH has had to hold back the reopenings when it deemed the County was not ready to safely advance. There have been some industries that are currently allowed in Tier 1 that the County has yet to advance. As such, the County has periodically had stricter limitations than the State, including for breweries and wineries. DPH has striven to root all these decisions in scientific data; and we must carefully balance public health and safety with ensuring that businesses are not being forced to close.

Many small businesses across the County, including breweries and wineries, have been struggling to make ends meet as they have been forced to operate in a more restrictive business model. Given that the State of California allows breweries to partner with a third-party permitted food vendor to operate at a limited capacity outdoors, it would be prudent for the County to realign with the State and advance to this step.

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MOTION

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While the County moves forward into this next step, it will be critical for the breweries and wineries to adhere to the public health protocols including, but not limited to masks, social/physical distancing, and regular cleanings. To start, DPH should establish outside operations for reservations only and assess the impact, if any, of these reopenings. DPH should also include a step-up plan for expanding the capacity/hours of operation.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, working in concert with County Counsel, to ensure alignment with the State protocols, to safely reopen breweries and wineries in one week. The reopening shall abide by strict safety guidelines, including but not limited to: outside operations, limited hours of operation, required reservations, appropriate social distancing, and all appropriate safety measures.

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JH:jb