



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

December 12, 2023

Resolution to waive the annual fee for sidewalk cafes on Dubuque Street due to the impact of construction.

Prepared By:	Susan Dulek, First Ass't. City Attorney
Reviewed By:	Geoff Fruin, City Manager Ron Knoche, Public Works Director

Fiscal Impact:	none
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Commission Recommendations:	N/A
Attachments:	Resolution

Executive Summary:

The City intends to reconstruct Dubuque St. in 2024 between Iowa Ave. and E. Washington St. which will entail full sidewalk and roadway pavement removal. Staff recommends the annual fee be waived for cafes located in this block along with any cafe on the southwest corner of Dubuque St. and Iowa Ave.

Background / Analysis:

Throughout construction there will be times when outdoor café spaces in this block will be unavailable due to construction, and even when space is available, the outdoor dining atmosphere is likely to suffer due to adjacent construction noise and dust. Staff recommends the annual fee be waived for cafes located in this block along with any cafe on the southwest corner of Dubuque St. and Iowa Ave. Council waived the annual fee previously during public improvements projects impacting cafes on Washington St. and the ped mall. The recording fee will not be waived.

Because staff sends annual renewal letters to cafe owners in late December, staff is recommending Council consider the waiver at this time even though the Dubuque Street reconstruction project has not been approved. If the project is delayed until 2025, this resolution provides fees will need to be paid in 2024 but will be waived in 2025. This eliminates the need for another resolution should the project be delayed.