

PROCEDURES FOR ALLOWING A TEMPORARY OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES

At the City Council meeting of June 2, 2020, City Council approved an urgency ordinance that allows temporary outdoor religious services throughout the City of Costa Mesa. There were two different scenarios anticipated: Temporary services in the parking lot where either the congregants remain in their car or where the congregants are seated in the parking lot. However, there can be cases where the religious institution has plaza or other landscaped areas – such as a grass playing field – where services can be held. Temporary services in the parking lot require a temporary use permit and are detailed elsewhere. Temporary services on the grounds of a religious institution that are not in the parking lot, street setback landscaped areas, and/or landscaped planters are permitted without a temporary use permit subject to the following operational parameters:

Temporary Outdoor Services on Private Property (excluding parking lots)

Many properties have oversized sidewalks, plazas, grass playing fields or other areas where outdoor seating can be provided. The religious institution must comply with the following parameters before establishing the outdoor services.

- All areas shall observe State and local health guidelines for religious institutions
- Temporary outdoor services are restricted to serving the existing, on-site religious institution
- Temporary outdoor seating may not be placed in required setbacks or landscaping (planter) areas
- A minimum 4-foot-wide pedestrian access is provided to accommodate wheelchairs
- Pedestrian ingress/egress may not be obstructed
- Any canopies or tents will require Fire and Building Department approval prior to installation
- Temporary outdoor services on a property within 200 feet of a residential zone are prohibited between 7 PM and 9 AM
- With the exception of speech, amplification is prohibited. However, use of smart phones to transmit audio is recommended and encouraged
- Temporary outdoor services may occur for 180 days --- until December 2, 2020 -- unless the temporary approvals are extended, subject to a similar reconsideration and potential extension at that time