



MUNICIPALITY ^{of} PRINCETON

Department of Infrastructure
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council
From: Deanna Stockton, *Deputy Administrator*
Subject: Hinds Plaza Outdoor Dining Resolutions
Date: July 6, 2026

Attached for Council's consideration at its July 13, 2026 meeting are two resolutions related to the Hinds Plaza Outdoor Dining Area affiliated with the restaurants Witherspoon Grill (WG) and Kristine's (K).

In 2006, the former Borough Council approved an amendment to the Park/Plaza Redevelopment Agreement which allowed for the use of approximately 1,100 square feet of Hinds Plaza for Witherspoon Grill's outdoor seating for a period of ten years; the outdoor dining use continued despite the lapsed agreement. In 2019, Princeton Council, by ordinance, enabled Kristine's restaurant to use an additional area of the plaza for outdoor dining. The 2006 amendment and the 2019 ordinance contained differing terms and contract provisions including the fee due to Princeton for the use: WG had a 10-year term, K had a perpetual term; WG's fee was \$2.50/sf, K's fee was based on the sidewalk café fees identified in the municipal code (this code was subsequently repealed and replaced by the outdoor dining regulations). This translates to an annual fee of \$2,750 for Witherspoon Grill. Kristine's annual fee was \$600 pre-2024, \$1,110 in 2024, and \$850 in 2025, reflecting the code change from sidewalk café to outdoor dining fee schedules.

To update and make the outdoor dining authorizations consistent, Princeton Council is now requested to approve a Second Amendment to Redevelopment Agreement and a license agreement with DWM Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Witherspoon Grill and Kristine's for the continued use of Hinds Plaza for outdoor dining. The term of the outdoor dining use is proposed to be three years from the date of the final execution of the Agreement, with four, three-year renewal options. The annual payment for the first term is (\$4.25) per square foot; based on square footage shown on the Exhibit A dining area plan, the annual payment is estimated to be \$9,617.75. The annual per-square-foot fee shall be increased by 6% for each of the following three-year terms.

The outdoor dining areas operated by Witherspoon Grill and Kristine's are an attractive but not overwhelming use of the public plaza known as Hinds Plaza. DWM Holdings has been very cooperative in supporting and accommodating the wide variety of public programming that occurs on Hinds Plaza. It is recommended that Council support the Second Amendment and license agreement as proposed. After adoption of these resolutions, an ordinance will be added to a future Council agenda to repeal the perpetual license that was granted to Kristine's.

Please contact me if you have any questions.