

News Release

Commissioner Eileen Kowall introduces resolution to waive annual county fees for food establishments

February 8, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – Commissioner **Eileen Kowall** (R-White Lake) introduced a resolution during the Oakland County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 4 that would temporarily waive all county food establishment fees through the end of the current fiscal year. The resolution, which was referred to the Public Health and Safety Committee, aims to address the economic impact of the state's COVID-19 restrictions on the local food service industry.

"We all know that restaurants and bars are continuing to suffer," Kowall said. "It breaks my heart to see businesses that are usually bustling hubs in our community turn to online fundraising platforms just to make ends meet and support their employees. This initiative would provide some relief for those businesses so we can help them get past this pandemic."

The Oakland County portion of the Health and Human Services Department Fee Schedule A, Environmental Health Fees for Service specific to food establishments with dine-in services would be waived. Those include annual license fees, inspection fees, class and testing fees, and plan review fees.

"I'm looking forward sitting down with the county's health division to work out the details and implement this program," Kowall said.

Eligible businesses would be those that provide dine-in services and can demonstrate a 25 percent loss of income. Costs associated with the temporary suspension of the fees could be reimbursed from any future eligible funds received by Oakland County from the federal or state governments related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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