

Application for outdoor dining to the [redacted] of Metuchen

Even though we had applied and withdrawal similar application 12 years ago a lot of things have changed. Unanimously every town in every state in the United States have taken a different approach to outdoor dining bypassing their previous laws and rules to accommodate the current dining needs. Metuchen as well permitted us to the outdoor dining when the indoor dining was prohibited. At the same time the governor of New Jersey and the alcohol and beverage committee have extended us a right to operate outdoor till the end of November 2022 with a written letter. With that intent we invested close to \$80,000 in tables, chairs, umbrellas, outdoor heaters, planters, and etc. Contrary to any other restaurant on Main Street and Central Avenue which they got government grants to build their tents and chairs. Our investment was initially placed with the intent that we will get back our money at least until November 2022. In addition to that our payroll for 16 out of the 26 people has been increased by law 150%. The remaining 10 require 30% payroll increase that makes it very difficult for us to meet without today's dining standards (outdoor). Today we are not asking to extend the outdoor dining till November 2022 but we are asking to extend permanent outdoor dining with weather permitting. On our way applying for the outdoor dining simultaneously we are trying the hardest to be great neighbors. We approach the direct and indirect neighbors to provide us a list of the conditions that we can coexist. A lot of them accepted without any conditions our coexistence. One in particular who is against it without any suggestion made us think of how we can avoid any possible resentment. So, we came up with the following suggestions, to begin with, we are not intent to increase our seating capacity for that we will take the tables and chairs from inside and will never exceed the existing permitted number of 125 for indoor and outdoor. As well, we are not taking any parking spots away from our existing parking lot which matter of fact after we repave it we increase our parking spots by 2 places. Eliminating any resistance suggesting that more people will park on the streets. At the same time, we are proposing to restrict our customers from dining outside past 10 o'clock. In addition to that based on one complaint that we were told about the music we accepting not to play anything other than instrumental music at a low volume. Finally, what we are proposing is that if you allow us to dine outdoors to complete our project in 2 stages. First stage, on the existing patio, we will place tables and chairs not to exceed 36 people and that will allow us to save our season and be able to meet today's dining needs. The second stage, is to build up the proposed pergola that will have a retractable awning. Finally, we want to make it clear that our goal is to give an alternative, HEALTHY option to our guests meeting today's trend and approach to dining.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely yours,

Constantine Papanicolaou Vicon Foods S Corp.