RIVERDALE PARK

"Carryout Cash" Resident - Restaurant - Town Partnership

Starting in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created economic hardships throughout the Town of Riverdale Park (TRP). The Governor of Maryland issued orders prohibiting gatherings of more than ten persons and the closure of restaurants, except for carry-out and delivery service. While no sector of the economy was spared, the restaurant industry has borne significant stress caused by the mandatory social distancing. In addition, food options for Town residents have been limited by this response to the pandemic.

In 2018, the TRP Mayor and Council adopted <u>Resolution 2018-R-05</u> establishing a commitment statement for Business and Economic Development that delineates in part that the attraction, retention and expansion of business and economic development activities are recognized as the foundation upon which strong and sustainable communities are built.

In March 2020, the TRP Mayor and Council adopted <u>Resolution 2020-R-12</u> to support food options for Town residents, and promote Town restaurants through a direct partnership with the Town. <u>The "Carryout Cash" Resident-Restaurant-Town Partnership Program</u> includes the following:

- Make available to residents, Town-funded discount coupons for participating Town restaurants that are not corporate chains or franchises that exceed 25 locations.
- Promote support of Town restaurants through various programs and outreach activities
- Encourage residents who desire to obtain carryout or delivered prepared foods to acquire such foods from restaurants located within the Town.
- Funds for this program will come from the Economic Development Fund

To get the program off the ground, it was promoted to restaurants first via the TRP website, social media, and an email blast to business owners. The second promotional wave was to residents via the TRP website, the Town Crier, and area news outlets.

Anyone who orders the Carryout Cash card will receive a second card worth 20% of the original card value as a gift. For example, if you purchase a card for \$100 you will receive a second card for an additional \$20 that can be used at the same participating business. The Town budgeted \$2000 to cover the cost of providing recipients 20% more in value for the cards they purchase.

The participating restaurants think this program is a fantastic. With this program and a donation-driven <u>Greater Riverdale Cares</u> program sponsored by the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation, to purchase meals to feed local residents in need, there have been no local restaurants that have ended their business as a result of the pandemic. In fact, a new business, <u>Gangster Vegan</u>, has opened and another, <u>2Fifty Texas BBQ</u> has expanded its dining area to include outside tables.

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