



LIVINGSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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February 24, 2021

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Matt Bolang, Deputy Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health

Re: Resolution to Remove Food Service License Fees for 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many of our local businesses to struggle during the past year due to mandated closures and capacity restrictions. None have been more adversely affected than our food service establishments. Our local restaurants have gone through periods of closure and indoor dining restrictions and many are struggling financially during this time.

In an effort to alleviate some of the financial burden of operating a restaurant, the attached resolution proposes to eliminate the collection of food licensing fees for existing facilities for the upcoming year. During normal years, the LCHD relies on the revenue generated from this local fee (\$335,000), along with our annual Essential Local Public Health Services contract funding (\$137,749), to support our food safety operations that include routine onsite inspections, education, reviewing plans for new construction, remodels, change of ownership, and the investigation of complaints and foodborne illness.

Due to many staff working in and being reassigned COVID specific roles and responsibilities, we are able to offset some of the operational costs with supplemental State and Federal COVID funding (estimated to be at least \$1.5M for 2021). If necessary, any additional budget shortfall will be made up through a contribution from our fund balance.

Given these unprecedented times, and to support our local food service businesses, I recommend approving this resolution.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me at (517) 552-6870.