ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-052

Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Three Rivers Bridge Dinner at the Gervais Street Bridge on Sunday, October 25, 2026 with a rain contingency date of Sunday, November 1, 2026

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Bridge Dinner, ("Sponsor") is sponsoring the Three Rivers Bridge Dinner on Sunday, October 25, 2026 at the Gervais Street Bridge from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has requested permission for the temporary closing and use of the Gervais Street Bridge from Alexander Street in West Columbia to Huger Street in Columbia from 6:00 a.m. until midnight for set up, clean up, and staging of the event to be held on Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; for patrons to consume beer, wine, and liquor beverages at the event during the hours of 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.; and for crowd control and overflow; and,

WHEREAS, to insure the safety of attendees Organizer understands and agrees as follows:

1. Firearms shall be prohibited at the Gervais Street Bridge, regardless of whether such firearm is carried openly or concealed, and regardless of whether the individual carrying such firearm is a valid concealed weapons permit holder, on Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. *See* Resolution No. 2021-099 (Sept. 7, 2021).

2. Organizer shall establish a boundary line around the event space at the Gervais Street Bridge, and the Organizer shall ensure all entrance points into the permitted event area are posted with signage stating "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" that complies with the size and formatting requirements of section 23-31-235 of the South Carolina Code.

3. When publicizing the event in the community, Organizer shall include the statement: "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" to ensure the public has prior notice of this restriction.

4. Organizer shall work with the City to develop a written plan and design a footprint of the event area that adheres to applicable COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, as published by the CDC and SCDHEC, and Organizer shall modify the plans and footprint as such guidelines are updated.

5. The City may cancel the event at any time based upon public safety and/or public health concerns. The City shall not be financially responsible for any costs associated with the cancellation of the event.

6. Organizer shall require that its agents, employees, vendors, contractors, and event attendees adhere to all applicable COVID-19 health and safety guidelines in effect at the time of the event.

7. To the extent the event occurs during a time in which the City has in effect any emergency ordinance or ordinance requiring face coverings or adherence to social distancing requirements, Organizer shall require that its agents, employees, vendors, contractors, and event attendees comply with the requirements of such ordinance(s).

8. The City strongly encourages Organizer to require that its agents, employees, vendors, contractors, and event attendees provide proof that they have been fully vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus prior to being granted permission to enter the event.

9. Organizer shall provide portable restroom facilities at the event unless it can substantiate the sufficient availability of both ADA accessible and non-accessible facilities in the immediate area of the event site which will be available to attendees during the event. Organizer shall provide a minimum of four (4) chemical or portable toilets and two (2) wash stations for every 250 people, or portion thereof, who attend the event. Ten percent (10%) of these facilities shall be ADA accessible. This figure is based upon the maximum number of attendees at the event during peak time. The City may determine the total number of required restroom facilities on a case-by-case basis. Organizer shall post signs or markers to prohibit lines or crowds forming near the event's restroom facilities without maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet from other people.

10. Organizer shall post signs or markers to prohibit lines or crowds forming near food vendors and should encourage attendees to bring their own water. Alcohol, beer, wine, and/or liquor shall be prohibited at the event without approval of a written resolution of City Council.

11. Organizer shall coordinate with food vendors to offer touchless payment options, if possible and available, or provide a tray for the exchange of payment to avoid hand-to-hand contact. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned after each customer and customers are encouraged to use their own pens.

12. At no cost to the City, Organizer shall be responsible for hiring no fewer than two (2) off-duty City of Columbia police officers during the hours of 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

WHEREAS, it has been determined that such an event would be in the public interest; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council this 18th day of August, 2026, that the sale of liquor, beer, and wine beverages in plastic containers or cans only is authorized between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, 2026; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all vendors be restricted to stationary location and that the sponsor shall approve or disapprove all amplified entertainment activities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that organizer is responsible or shall make arrangements for the cleanup of all trash and debris within the festival area and shall place same in the roll carts provided by the City. Any overflow of trash and debris shall be placed in garbage bags with the top securely closed and placed beside the City roll carts. The number of roll carts needed for the event shall be determined by organizer and the City Solid Waste Division prior to the event and placed throughout the event area to ensure that trash and debris are well contained. Roll carts and bagged trash and debris shall be returned to the collection point designated by the City in a timely manner. If the organizer has not opted to use City services to clean up the festival area, any costs incurred by the City in removing loose trash and debris within the festival area, which the organizer has failed to clean up, shall be billed to and paid by the organizer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that outdoor possession and consumption of liquor, beer, wine beverages unless the appropriate permits or licenses, if required are issued by the SCDOR and all outdoor musical performances and use of sound-amplifying devices shall end by 10:00 p.m. due to the proximity of the event to residential properties; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that only pedestrian traffic will be allowed within the area. All other traffic, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, skate boards, and horses, except police horses, police golf carts, and horse-drawn carriages, is prohibited. All pets, including snakes, shall be prohibited. Coolers, glass bottles, breakable glasses and/or cups, large bags and backpacks shall be prohibited; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the designated time the closed portion of the Gervais Street Bridge from Alexander Street in West Columbia to Huger Street in Columbia, with the exception of the parking areas, adjacent off-street parking areas and any other areas posted as to not allow alcoholic liquors or alcoholic beverages is deemed to be the site of a public festival at which liquor, beer and wine beverages may be consumed and the prohibition against possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages set forth in Sec. 14-99 shall not apply as to the possession and consumption of liquor, beer and/or wine beverages. Possession and consumption of liquor, beer and wine beverages shall be permitted only in plastic cups, plastic or aluminum bottles or aluminum cans provided by vendors within the areas designated.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that the event organizer shall provide the names and cell phone numbers of a least two contact persons who can receive complaints during the event, including any set up and breakdown times. The cell phones shall remain on at all times during the event and during any set up and breakdown time.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that failure of the event organizer to strictly comply with the time frames and other requirements and responsibilities set forth in this resolution may result in a denial of subsequent requests to allow the event.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that no solicitation or transactions be made in violation of Sec. 14-32, 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the organizer reschedule the event for another date beyond one (1) week from the date of the originally scheduled event, a request for a resolution of City Council approving the new date of the event shall be required.

Requested by:

William Holbrook, Police Chief

Approved by:

Mayor

City Manager

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduced: 08/18/2026
Final Reading: 08/18/2026