ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-060

Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at The Drop on Main at the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street on Thursday, December 31, 2026

WHEREAS, LTC Hospitality (hereinafter "Sponsor" or "Organizer") is sponsoring The Drop on Main on Thursday, December 31, 2026 from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., Friday, January 1, 2027 at the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has requested permission for the temporary closing of the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street, from 3:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. for preparation and staging of the area and for crowd control and overflow at the outdoor event to be held from 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2026 until 2:00 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2027; and for patrons to consume beer, wine, and liquor beverages at the event during the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.; and,

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

1. Firearms shall be prohibited at the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street on Thursday, December 31, 2026 from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2027 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.

2. The Organizer shall establish a boundary line around the event space at the 1600 block of Main Street; 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, the 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 COVID-19 pandemic safety and social distancing protocols as published by the CDC and SCDHEC, and Organizer shall modify the plans and footprint as safety protocols published by the CDC and SCDHEC 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 is required to 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 the public during the event. Organizer is to provide a minimum of four (4) chemical or portable toilets and two (2) wash stations for every 250 people, or portion thereof who attends 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 of Columbia 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 restroom 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. Liquor, beer and/or wine 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 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.

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 1st day of September, 2026, that the sale of liquor, beer and wine beverages only in plastic containers or cans only is authorized between the hours of 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2026 and 1:30 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2027; 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 possession and consumption of alcoholic liquors or alcoholic beverages other than beer and/or wine beverages only within the event area is prohibited; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VIP tents or VIP areas for the possession and consumption of alcoholic liquors or alcoholic beverages, other than beer or wine beverages only, within the event area are prohibited; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Organizer is responsible or shall make arrangements for the clean-up of all trash and debris within the event 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's Solid Waste Division prior to the event and placed throughout the event area to ensure that trash and debris are well contained. Organizer shall return the roll carts and bagged trash and debris 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 event area, any costs incurred by the City in removing loose trash and debris within the event 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, and wine beverages only, 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 event area. All other traffic, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, skate boards, and horses, golf carts (except police golf carts or ATVs), and horse-drawn carriages, is prohibited. All pets with the exception of dogs including cats, horses, birds, lizards, and snakes, are prohibited. Coolers, glass bottles, breakable drinking glasses and/or cups, large bags, and backpacks shall be prohibited inside the event area; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the designated time from 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2026 until 2:00 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2027, the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street serve as the designated event area, with the exception of the parking area and any other areas posted as to not allow alcoholic beverages, shall be declared to be a Public Park and the provisions of Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-1, 15-2, and 15-3, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina are in effect. Pursuant to Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV, Offenses Against the Public Peace and Order, Sec. 14-99, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, the designated event area of the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street, with the exception of the parking area and any other areas posted as to not allow alcoholic beverages, is deemed to be the site of a public festival at which liquor, beer and wine beverages only may be consumed and the prohibition against possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages set forth in Sec. 14-99 shall not apply to the possession or consumption of liquor, beer or wine within the designated event area. Possession and consumption of liquor, beer and wine shall be permitted only in containers provided by vendors within the areas designated, and such containers provided by vendors for the sale of beer and wine may only be in plastic containers or cans.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that the event organizer shall provide the names and cell phone numbers of a least two contact persons who can receive and address complaints during the event, including any set up and breakdown times. The cell phones shall remain on, with ringers and alerts functioning 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 of the 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 or inclement weather date, 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:

City Manager

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduced: 09/01/2026
Final Reading: 09/01/2026

Last revised: 8/10/2026