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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PUBLIC DINING AREA OPENS IN DOWNTOWN BEAVERTON

BEAVERTON, Ore. – A new public dining area has opened in downtown Beaverton. The 1st Street Dining Commons is a partnership with Lionheart Coffee Company to provide additional appropriately social-distanced outdoor dining options this summer.

“We are so happy to partner with the city to provide a communal space for our neighbors to safely gather and enjoy downtown restaurants,” said Lauren Reese, Lionheart Coffee Company Owner. “Having a space like this available may be the difference that allows our restaurant community to thrive during this time.”

To accommodate the new space, the city has closed one block of SW 1st Street between SW Watson and SW Washington. The 1st Street Dining Commons will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. through October 31, 2020 and includes properly spaced seating for customers to bring takeout, including closed containers of alcohol, from any of downtown Beaverton’s many restaurants. While tables are spaced to promote social distancing, masks are required in the area when social distancing isn’t possible consistent with the state’s new mandate. While outdoor dining programs are happening in many cities, the 1st Street Dining Commons is unique in that it repurposes the street entirely for public space.

Lionheart Coffee Company is responsible for day-to-day operations including making sure the space is safe and sanitary. The area is intended for safe-distanced dining and is not intended for large gatherings or events.

“It’s wonderful to see our downtown businesses come together and be part of the positive response to COVID-19,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “We all want to see our businesses succeed and to have healthy opportunities for our community members to be served. I’m excited to have this great amenity in Beaverton.”

In June, the City of Beaverton launched the Open Air Beaverton program, which is also helping area businesses safely serve customers and promote small business recovery. The program allows food, recreation and other establishments impacted by physical-distancing requirements to temporarily expand outdoors into areas normally reserved for vehicles. Similar businesses located in downtown Beaverton are also allowed to temporarily expand into the parking lanes of city streets, with approval via a free city-issued permit.

For more information, including program details, specific requirements and the permit application, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/OpenAirBeaverton.

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