

RESOLUTION NO. 21-01

A RESOLUTION **OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NORTH BEACH** **DECLARING A MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS ON THE** **ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO** **REVIEW ITS LICENSING SCHEME TO ENSURE THAT IT IS FAIR AND** **EQUITABLE AND SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN IN THE** **MANNER MOST CONDUCTIVE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND** **WELFARE AND THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL WELL-BEING**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of North Beach, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't, Art., § 5-204 and § 5-205 has the authority to regulate businesses located in the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this authority, the Council of the Town of North Beach adopted the Chapter 69, "Licensing", of the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 69 is intended, among other things, to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, to facilitate the development of a business community that is stable and attractive and increases the prosperity and vibrancy of the Town, and to preserve the character of the Town by preventing harmful effects of shoddy business practices and/or disorderly or unkempt premises; and

WHEREAS, the Town Zoning Ordinance contains a table of fees for business licenses that has not been subject to a comprehensive review and update in some time; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 69 provides in Section 69-1 for license applications to be approved by a Committee on Licenses, which does not presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have determined that a comprehensive assessment of the Town's business licensing scheme is desirable to ensure that the business licensing scheme is fairly and equitably applied and to determine whether there is a need for the appointment of a Committee on Licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council believe that a temporary suspension of the issuance of business licenses while the Town reviews the licensing scheme is necessary and appropriate, provided that the suspension continues for a period no longer than absolutely necessary to complete the assessment in the exercise of all due haste; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to impose a moratorium to allow Town staff time to study these matters, finalize their recommendations, and propose changes to better achieve the goals expressed herein; and

WHEREAS, completion of this process is anticipated to occur within the six (6) month period following the adoption of this Resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of North Beach that:

1. Moratorium established. A temporary moratorium on the processing of business license applications in the Town of North Beach shall be and is hereby established for a period of six (6) months from and after the adoption of this Resolution.
2. Purpose. The purpose of this Moratorium is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of North Beach and to protect and preserve the character of the Town and permits the Town to undertake a comprehensive review of its business licensing program.
3. Study, recommendations, and legislation. This temporary moratorium is established to allow sufficient time within which to complete a study, finalize recommendations, and, if necessary, enact appropriate legislation to best promote the interests of the Town with respect to the licensing of businesses located in the community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution shall be interpreted as waiving, or being in contradiction of, any authority or power existing in or granted to the Council of the Town of North Beach to institute such a moratorium at any time, or extend any such moratorium, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the Town and its residents, and that to the extent of such power, this moratorium shall be effective immediately.

PASSED on this 11th day of February 2021.

ATTEST:

THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
NORTH BEACH

Stacy Milor, Town Clerk

Mike Benton, Mayor