

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XX

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT'S MOVE OF DOUGLAS COUNTY TO LEVEL RED ON THE STATE'S COVID-19 DIAL AND THE CLOSURE OF INDOOR DINING AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

WHEREAS, the State's expressed intent in maintaining its COVID-19 Dial framework is to move communities on the Dial's levels based on metrics; and

WHEREAS, the State further states on the COVID Dial webpage that the Dial framework "gives communities a tool to make life in the pandemic more sustainable"; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County on November 17 received notice from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment that the State was changing restrictions for Douglas County from the Dial's Level Orange to Level Red, effective at 5 p.m. Friday, November 20; and

WHEREAS, other neighboring Counties whose COVID-19 incidence rates are comparable to, or in excess of, those in Douglas County have not been moved by the State to Level Red, indicating unequal treatment of our area's counties by State officials; and

WHEREAS, Level Red restrictions completely shut down indoor dining at restaurants, absent the provision of data-based evidence of this being necessary, while allowing other indoor industries to continue to operate at capacities of up to 50%; and

WHEREAS, Castle Rock's restaurants have adhered to capacity restrictions, and to 6-foot distancing, face-covering, cleaning, party size and other requirements set forth by the State during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, our local restaurants, which have already seen a substantial revenue decline from last year, cannot sustain under such severe measures – particularly during this critical holiday season; and

WHEREAS, restaurants provide needed jobs within our community, and add to it charm, interest and vitality that would irreversibly alter our community's character if lost; and

WHEREAS, outdoor-only restaurant service is simply impractical this time of year, when high temperatures average in the 50s and 40s; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Statement of Opposition. The Town Council formally declares its opposition of Douglas County’s unequal treatment by the State in being moved to Level Red on the COVID-19 Dial, and the resulting closure of indoor dining at our local restaurants. Council requests the State reconsider this unsustainable move and allow indoor dining in Douglas County to reopen at some viable percentage.

Section 2. Authorization to Send Letter. The Town Council, by its approval of this Resolution, authorizes Mayor Gray to send to Governor Polis on its behalf a letter expressing opinions consistent with those stated herein.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of November 2020, by the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado, on first and final reading by a vote of _____ for and _____ against.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

Lisa Anderson, Town Clerk

Jason Gray, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Michael J. Hyman, Town Attorney