



## CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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William J. Mann  
Economic Development Director

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

**WHAT:** SOPO TO-GO: An initiative to support local restaurants, eateries, cafés, and breweries.

**WHERE:** In the City of South Portland

**WHEN:** April, May, and June 2020

**The City of South Portland's Economic Development Department is launching SOPO TO-GO, an initiative to promote and support the restaurants, eateries, cafés, and breweries operating within the City of South Portland, Maine.** It is our goal to remind the community that many of our local food and beverage businesses are continuing to operate by continuing to offer takeout, delivery of food & beverage products, and gift cards and gift certificates.

This is a time unlike anything most of us have ever experienced and the rules, restrictions and recommended precautions are changing rapidly – like the recently issued **STAY AT HOME Order** and other enhanced measures to promote physical distancing as part of ongoing efforts to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 Novel Corona Virus and bring this Pandemic to an end as quickly as possible.

Many of the business owners in the City of South Portland are concerned about the future of their establishments, and the servers, bartenders, cooks, and many other employees in all sorts of businesses are concerned about how they will pay their bills. There are many challenges facing us today. Yet, in this most challenging of times, there is opportunity to find new ways to come together to support those in need of assistance.

**Every Friday for the next three months (April, May and June, 2020), the City of South Portland will be holding a drawing for \$100 in gift card(s)/gift certificate(s) to South Portland restaurants, eateries, cafes, and breweries, as part of our SOPO TO-GO initiative.**

**When we support these businesses, we are supporting our neighbors, our friends, and our community!**

### **How to Participate in SOPO TO-GO:**

- 1) Order takeout, get delivery of food & beverage products, or purchase Gift Cards/Certificates from any restaurants, eateries, cafés, or breweries with a retail location in South Portland<sup>1</sup>, in the months of April, May, or June, 2020 and SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS.
- 2) When your receipts total \$50.00 or more, photograph or scan them and submit them [here](#)
- 3) Individuals are encouraged to submit multiple entries, provided that each entry has a minimum of \$50.00 in unique receipts.

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### **Terms and Conditions:**

- One<sup>2</sup> winner will be drawn, at random, each week.
- All entries submitted prior to noon on Friday of each week will be included in that week's drawing.
- Entries submitted after that time will be included in the following week's drawing.
- Drawings will occur at 1:00 p.m. each Friday.
- The first drawing will occur on Friday April 10, 2020.
- The City of South Portland reserves the right to change or amend these Terms and Conditions at any time without notice.

<sup>1</sup>Purchase receipts from businesses that would be considered primarily grocery stores are not eligible for submission to this program.

<sup>2</sup>In weeks where there are more than 200 entries, two \$100 winners will be drawn.

**Restriction:** Officials and employees of the City of South Portland are encouraged to support our local businesses. However, officials and employees of the City of South Portland are not eligible to participate in the drawings, which are a part of this initiative.

**NOTE:** Some of your favorite local restaurants, eateries, cafés, or breweries may have temporarily shut down. Consider buying a Gift Card/Certificate from one of them to show your support. Please call, check their websites, and Facebook pages to see how this can be done. They also make great gifts.

“This is one small but hopefully powerful initiative to give people incentives support the food and beverage establishments that are so important to our community,” said Mayor Kate Lewis. “It’s a way to encourage residents in our caring and responsible city to help the businesses and workers who give our city strength and nourishment. Plus, the potential winning draw of \$100 each week gives us something fun and positive to look forward to, which we could all use during this very unsettling time.”

Mayor Lewis stated that she wanted to “thank the City’s economic development team and other City staff for developing this idea, and for all of the work they are doing to maintain our best operations during this challenging time.”

We are hoping to get as many entries as possible each week. 100 entries each week represents \$5,000 or more reinvested in our community.

Please email questions to: [bizsupport@southportland.org](mailto:bizsupport@southportland.org).

### **For Additional Information Contact:**

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