



November 3, 2021

Mayor Steve Chirico and  
Members of the Naperville Liquor Commission  
400 S. Eagle Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The Naperville Development Partnership and Visit & Dine Naperville have spent the better part of the past two years working with the business community as it struggles with the challenges of the pandemic. For many months the state prohibited indoor dining, followed by indoor capacity restrictions and mask mandates – which are currently in place. The city allowing outdoor seating was a way for the restaurants to accommodate the mitigations and follow Covid guidelines, while providing for the many patrons reluctant to return indoors.

Given our climate, creativity and ingenuity were deployed to find a winter outdoor dining solution that would withstand both the low temperatures and the snowplows. The owner of Features, Riff Menza, agreed to participate in a pilot program with the NDP, Downtown Naperville Alliance, and the Naperville Department of Public Works which designed a program to convert railcars into dining rooms. The expense was borne entirely by Mr. Menza.

There is a continued need for accommodations due to mandates and lingering Covid concerns, particularly in the restaurant industry. The design of the railcars is DPW and TED approved for winter conditions. In light of the significant investment and the ongoing Covid related issues, the Naperville Development Partnership respectfully requests your consideration of the request to extend permission for the use of the outdoor railcars in the three parking spots directly in front of the establishment through the upcoming winter months.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Christine D. Jeffries*

Christine D. Jeffries  
President