

Shantelle Brent

From: Jennifer VanVrancken <JennVanv@jeffparish.net>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Butch Browning
Subject: Re: As Discussed...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Chief Browning

I greatly appreciate the clarification.

Thank you for this guidance. It will serve to assist A number of businesses in my district.

Sincerely
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On May 29, 2020, at 9:48 AM, Butch Browning <Butch.Browning@la.gov> wrote:

Ms. VanVranken,

You've misunderstood. I'm referring to the attached documents here, titled "OpenSafely-Places of Worship," that can be used as guidance to conduct a wedding ceremony in a setting or setup similar to those that Places of Worship are following to conduct their various services relative to seating, spacing, and crowd management.

Further, there is additional guidance available on our website, lasfm.org, to conduct outdoor ceremonies similar to places of worship conducting their various outdoor services.

I hope that clears things up for you.

<https://opensafely.la.gov/DownloadFile.ashx?ID=7&TBL=tblPubliclinks>

**H. "Butch" Browning, EFO,
CFO**
Louisiana State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire
Marshal

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Email: butch@la.gov

From: Jennifer VanVrancken [mailto:JennVanv@jeffparish.net]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Butch Browning <Butch.Browning@la.gov>
Subject: Re: As Discussed...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Mr Browning

Can you please provide me the citation upon which you are relying to determine that a wedding ceremony can only occur within a church.

Seems to me this would be unconstitutionally discriminatory against those not of a particular faith or those who may be marrying for a second time and not allowed a church wedding.

Certainly we can't be concluding that a religious ceremony marrying two people in a church protects participants from COVID 19, but a civil ceremony in a non-church building puts them at risk.

Respectfully
Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On May 28, 2020, at 9:49 PM, Butch Browning <Butch.Browning@la.gov> wrote:

Mrs. VanVrancken,

Thank you for the information you provided, and the important service your business provides. It is our opinion that in Phase 1 your event center, with your LDH food service permit, may operate within the guidance of a restaurant/bar. In reference to indoor wedding ceremonies, Phase 1 allows those to occur only in a place of worship setting. Further, receptions or other gatherings are not yet addressed in the current proclamation and supporting documents.

I am hopeful soon new guidance will be updated that will address more of your usages as we follow Federal recommendations and mitigation standards.

Chief H. "Butch" Browning
Louisiana State Fire Marshal

From: Jennifer VanVrancken <JennVanv@jeffparish.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:29:31 AM

To: Butch Browning

Cc: Jennifer VanVrancken

Subject: As Discussed...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

State Fire Marshall Browning,

Thank you so much for being available to speak by phone yesterday. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this matter.

The purpose of this communication is twofold. First, to help clarify that indoor wedding gatherings (and indoor funeral gatherings) are permitted in Phase 1. Second, to help clarify that a particular business situated in my council district is a restaurant establishment and as such, is permitted to operate at 25% capacity with social distancing and other precautions applicable to restaurants in Phase 1.

Governor John Bel Edwards held a press conference May 11 regarding moving the State of Louisiana into Phase One of Reopening. Below are links to numerous news articles, each specifically includes information stating that Phase One allows wedding and funeral gatherings to be held indoors at 25% occupancy of the facility holding the gathering. In addition to the below list of links, I have attached several additional articles (Attached as "Additional Media") also specifically enumerating or highlighting that wedding and funeral gatherings are permitted in Phase One at 25% capacity.

https://www.ktbs.com/news/health/coronavirus/gov-edwards-announces-states-reopening/article_b5234dde-938a-11ea-8c69-2f05b8a3b9a0.html

<https://www.katc.com/news/covering-louisiana/gov-edwards-to-announce-lifting-of-stay-at-home-order-phase-1-reopening-starting-friday>

<https://www.wbrz.com/news/how-to-watch-2-30-news-conference-with-la-governor-monday-about-reopening-plans/>

http://www.westcentralsbest.com/todays_country_1057/news/covid-19-updates/article_6278c686-6473-11ea-9c2d-534d700449e3.html

<https://www.newsweek.com/louisiana-allows-hair-salons-restaurants-movie-theatres-reopen-friday-coronavirus-recoveries-1503262>

<https://www.myarklamiss.com/news/live-now-gov-edwards-announces-louisiana-will-move-into-phase-1-of-reopening-on-may-15/>

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With regard to The Balcony Ballroom, an establishment located in Council District 5, I have attached documentation provided by the business that unequivocally establishes it as restaurant. Attached to this email (as Balcony Restaurant) is the most recent ATC Class AR Restaurant permit, the ATC description of Class AR restaurant permitted establishment, the most recent State of Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health inspection noting no violations, the most recent Louisiana Department of Health Permit to Operate as a Food Service Establishment, Certificates of Completion for the proprietors from the Department of Health and Hospitals Food Safety Certification Training and Testing Program as well as the occupancy capacity allowed on the premises. I hope this will serve to establish clearly that the Balcony Ballroom is licensed to operate exclusively as a restaurant establishment and as such is permitted to re-open for business in Phase One as of May 15 under Proclamation 58 JBE 2020, following all applicable guidance contained therein.

As this matter is time sensitive, I appreciate your consideration in advance.

Jennifer van Vrancken
Councilwoman, Jefferson Parish

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