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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/2/2021

Chatham Health District recognizes the tremendous impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on local businesses. In particular, licensed restaurants and cosmetology establishments have suffered through losses in revenue from mandatory closures, capacity restrictions, and customer avoidance due to COVID-19 exposure concerns. In recognition of the special role these businesses play in keeping our residents safe from COVID-19 while providing essential services, Chatham Health District is announcing a "COVID-19 Prevention Partner Drawing". Licensed restaurants and hair or nail salons are invited to enter into a drawing to have their 2022 annual license fee waived or refunded. All a business has to do to enter the drawing is adopt a new policy or practice aimed at reducing the burden of COVID-19 on our community.

"I appreciate everything our licensed businesses have done to keep their staff, patrons, and our community safe from COVID-19 over the past 2 years," said Russell Melmed, Director of the Chatham Health District. "We look at this program as a way to encourage these businesses to continue playing an important role as trusted public health messengers in our community, while giving them a chance for a modicum of regulatory financial relief."

All submissions will be evaluated by Chatham Health District for their potential impact on COVID-19 transmission, and if determined to generally meet the intent of the program, will be entered into the drawing. Up to 30 restaurants and 10 salons will be randomly drawn as winners. Winners will be distributed proportionately based on their license category and the number of entries received.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Melmed', written over a horizontal line.

Russell S. Melmed, MPH
Director of Health
Chatham Health District