

Attachment No. 2
3-20-20 Culver City Chamber of Commerce Request

(1) Consideration of Various Tax and Utility Fee Waivers, Reductions and Delayed Payments for Culver City Businesses Impacted by City Orders Related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and (2) FOUR-FIFTHS VOTE REQUIREMENT: Approval of Budget Amendments Related to Those Waivers and Reductions that are Granted.

From: Colin Diaz <colin@culvercitychamber.com>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:12 AM

To: Nachbar, John <john.nachbar@culvercity.org>; Sahli-Wells, Meghan <Meghan.Sahli-Wells@culvercity.org>; Eriksson, Goran <Goran.Eriksson@culvercity.org>; thomas.small@culvercity.gov; Lee, Daniel <Daniel.Lee@culvercity.org>; Fisch, Alex <Alex.Fisch@culvercity.org>

Subject: COVID-19 Business Recovery Proposal

Dear Director of Emergency Services, Mayor and Members of the City Council,

This has been a difficult few weeks for everyone in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of the pandemic and in compliance with the City's emergency ordinance of March 16, many businesses in Culver City have closed their doors or were operating at greatly reduced capacity. We have numerous reports of layoffs and businesses that are down to zero revenue. As this continues, business owners and employees are finding themselves in increasingly desperate circumstances.

It is imperative that we support our businesses, which are estimated to attribute to upwards of 70 percent of General Fund revenue.

In light of these dire circumstances for businesses, we are urgently requesting the following policies be implemented:

1. Temporary suspension/elimination of all City fees for businesses, particularly those that have had to close their doors. We expect other businesses to have to close going forward. Many others have seen their source of income dramatically or entirely dry up. This should last for a period of 60-90 days following the conclusion of our COVID-19 protocol
 - Including, but not limited too
 - Public Parking fees (for those paying for structure space)
 - Outdoor Dining Permit Fee
 - Shared Valet costs (in parts of the City)
2. Temporary suspension of business taxes and registration fees and rebates for those businesses that have already paid their 2020 tax.
3. Suspension/grace period for payment of City trash and sewage.
4. City supported donation drive for small businesses. Expanding on what Councilmember Lee recommended at the past Council Meeting
5. City financed loan or grant program for small businesses – the City of Los Angeles just announced, a large economic relief program, including \$11 million in no-fee microloans of \$5,000 to \$20,000 — which may be used to cover working capital.

- <https://www.stl.news/los-angeles-mayor-garcetti-announces-economic-relief-package/315238/>.. We may be able to explore a public private partnership to achieve this
- 6. Enhanced Small Business Development Center Partnership with Small Business Development Center, including:
 - Weekly webinars/seminars for Culver City area businesses on disaster response and related advice
 - Enhanced promotion of complimentary one on one services
- 7. Indefinite Moratorium on discussions surrounding a Business License Tax increase to a period of 90-120 days after the COVID-19 protocol concludes. It is highly recommended to reassess the current state of the business community at that time and redo the FAC work to see if the BLT increase is still feasible and justified

I ask for your urgent review of these items. Collectively, we can do a lot to aid our business community's recovery and sustainability during this period. Please let me know when we can discuss.

Thank you,

Colin Diaz
President/CEO

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