



CITY OF REDMOND
City Council

411 SW Ninth Street
Redmond, OR 97756

January 12, 2021

Office of Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown;

Redmond, Oregon has more than 1,700 businesses throughout our community. Many of these are small and locally owned. They serve as the backbone of our city. A place where the entrepreneurial spirit runs strong. Many, such as restaurants, gyms, and similar customer-based businesses are facing financial ruin as the public health pandemic continues into its 11th month. Hundreds of service workers are also unemployed.

On behalf of the many small and locally owned businesses in Redmond, Oregon, the Redmond City Council requests those businesses be given the same re-opening consideration you have granted our school district. This would allow small businesses to re-open commerce in a safe manner, following CDC guidelines and demonstrates trust in the wisdom of our small businesses. We also request you continually review the emerging scientific evidence and consider ways in which communities can re-open their fragile economies.

We understand the gravity of the COVID pandemic. COVID is a real and significant global public health crisis that has claimed the lives of more than 350,000 people in this country. Locally, as of January 7, 2021, we have seen 4,322 cases and 24 deaths in Deschutes County, according to the Deschutes County Epidemiology Dept.. These most recent statistics also reported the fourth highest number of positive cases (345) since the pandemic began. We do not support or endorse any businesses or institutions that are operating in conflict with the CDC and related public health guidelines.

However, we believe there needs to be more balance in protecting the health of our citizens and also allowing our businesses to survive economically. Without that balance the economic, social and psychological impacts of these orders can outweigh the health benefits derived. Many of our small business owners and their employees are now scared, angry, frustrated and confused. They feel they have been abandoned by our state government, selectively eliminated from the economy, and left to survive by their own devices. Meanwhile, larger chain and big box stores have crowded aisles and checkout counters.

It has reached a breaking point.

This situation has reached a pivotal juncture, one in which we are likely to see more of our restaurants and small, local businesses fail without additional aid, support, and consideration.

We as local elected officials must respond to their pleas for help and that is why we ask you to put in place a blueprint that allows them to more fully participate in the economy in a manner that respects the public health emergency but allows our small businesses owners to maintain the businesses they have worked so hard to build and sustain. We stand with them.

To that end, we request you consider the following:

- ✓ Adjust guidance for Counties in the “Extreme” category to allow them the flexibility to re-open similar to that which you granted to our school districts.
- ✓ Allow businesses to re-open in a manner that requires masks and physical distancing measures and frequent hand washing.
- ✓ Allow our small businesses to tackle the safety measures with the same spirit they used to carve out their niche in private enterprise.

We are committed to continue to do our part on behalf of safety and small businesses by encouraging every member of our community to follow the health and safety guidelines established by the CDC, OHA, and Deschutes County; and to explore every possible local, county, state, and federal resource available to assist local business impacted by mandatory closures.

The Redmond City Council thanks you for the consideration of our request and we stand ready to meet with you and your team to discuss this further.

Time is of the utmost essence, please help us as we strive to champion our local and small businesses.

Approved by the City Council, this 12th of January, 2021.

With warm regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Endicott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Redmond City Council
Redmond, Oregon