



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lester J. Friedman, Mayor

May 25, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request to Allow Non-Essential Retail and Restaurants to Safely Reopen on June 1, 2020

Dear Governor Newsom:

We, the Beverly Hills City Council, are writing to thank you for your continued efforts to keep Californians healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. While we appreciate all of your work on behalf of the State's residents, we believe that further delay of the economic recovery will have lasting and devastating financial consequences to our local economy. As such, we urgently request that non-essential retail and restaurant establishments be allowed to safely reopen on June 1st with limited in-store shopping and indoor/outdoor dining capacity with all necessary health and safety protocols in place as determined by State and LA County medical experts.

As our business community continues to face an unprecedented loss of revenue and an uncertain recovery, we believe now is the time for cities, including Beverly Hills, to exert local control and work directly with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and businesses to implement the safety protocols needed for a June 1st reopening. Many cities, including Beverly Hills, are primarily home to small businesses, not large retailers. The current curbside-only restrictions do not help those businesses and pose a continued threat to the long-term sustainability of merchants and employees. We are certain that our retailers can do far better than the "Big Box" stores in keeping their patrons separated and safe. We will act safely, but we need to act now.

The City of Beverly Hills is a proactive leader in promoting public health. We were the first City in the region to mandate face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, as one of the first cities to restrict tobacco use more than 30 years ago and soon to become the first City in America to prohibit the sale of tobacco products, we have demonstrated a true commitment to the health of our community. We understand the resources needed to implement significant change to both facilities and behavior, and we have done it successfully during our smoke-free campaign. We are prepared to dedicate all available

resources to execute this reopening at the highest level along with the continued requirements of face coverings and physical distancing.

With the support of our COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance Task Force, Medical Advisory Task Force and Health and Safety Commission, we have already begun the process of regularly disinfecting public facilities and creating extensive face covering and social distancing signage. As our essential businesses have continued to operate safely and effectively, we believe this can now be applied to all businesses in the City.

As you know, the economic impact of the virus on the 88 communities in Los Angeles County is dire. Governor, we have done our part to flatten the curve but the time has come to move forward. California, including cities such as Beverly Hills, have the unique ability to demonstrate a safe and accountable reopening.

For the future of cities that rely on small business, we strongly urge your immediate approval of this request.

Sincerely,

The Beverly Hills City Council



Lester J. Friedman
Mayor



Robert Wunderlich
Vice Mayor



Lili Bosse
Councilmember



Julian A. Gold M.D.
Councilmember

cc: Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District