



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: March 24, 2020

22

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

PROVIDING IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY AND RELATED SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has caused unprecedented uncertainty across the nation and the San Diego region. The restaurant and service industries are among the hardest hit sectors. They have been immediately impacted by forced closures or limited services. Hundreds of layoffs and furloughs have already gone into effect for hourly employees and small businesses are left to plan how they will survive while the future of their business remains uncertain.

On March 12, 2020, an Order (Order) of the Health Officer was issued by the Public Health Officer of the County of San Diego and on March 16, 2020 an Amended Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations was issued. This Order included closures and social distancing requirements and limited all food service to delivery, pick-up, or drive thru. This Order, intended to limit the spread of COVID-19, had an immediate and possibly catastrophic impact on our bar and restaurant industry.

The County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is responsible for protecting the public from foodborne illness, health threats, safety hazards, and nuisances as they relate to food facilities. DEH oversees the health permitting for over 15,000 permanent retail food facilities including over 8,100 restaurants across the region. All food facilities are required by law to obtain a valid health permit which ranges from \$200 to \$1,930.

While some food operations such as grocery stores and markets are allowed to continue operating under the Order, other food and beverage industry operations such as restaurants, bars, breweries, caterers, mobile food facilities, and schools need support to recover after this time of unprecedented closures, limited services, and financial loss. Today's action would defer payment of fees collected by the Department of Environmental Health from March 1, 2020 through August 30, 2020, for these restaurant and bar businesses impacted by the Order. Annual food facility health

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permit fees, late fees, and plan check correction fees associated with plans submitted prior to March 1, 2020, would be deferred for six months. In order to implement this relief, today's action requests that the Chief Administrative Officer take action necessary to address any DEH budget shortfall caused by these deferrals.

Today's actions are an initial step toward helping to rebuild an industry that has been impacted by this illness. As the COVID-19 situation changes, further actions may be implemented to further support businesses that have been impacted. It is important that County requirements that may inhibit businesses from swiftly reopening once the Health Order is lifted be further assessed. In order to implement a comprehensive approach, barriers to reopening should be reduced and removed when safely and legally feasible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISOR KRISTIN GASPAR AND SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to defer the date on which food facility annual health permit fees, plan check fees and late fees must be paid until September 1, 2020 for food facilities negatively impacted by the March 16, 2020 Amended Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations and Addenda.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to take necessary actions, including returning to the Board as necessary, to use general purpose revenue to address any operating budget shortfall to the Department of Environmental Health caused by the fee deferral.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to seek State of California and federal funding to assist the hospitality and food and beverage industry recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to analyze County requirements that may inhibit businesses from swiftly reopening once the health order is lifted and report back to the Board on possible solutions within 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

To be determined.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

This action will help support individuals and small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action to defer fees for food facilities supports the Thriving Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan by keeping small businesses in operation.

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTIN GASPAR
Supervisor, 3rd District



VICE-CHAIRMAN JIM DESMOND
Supervisor, 5th District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 3 and District 5, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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