



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

38 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

2020 Board of Directors

November 20, 2020

President

Dana Ralph
Mayor
City of Kent

RE: Restaurant Closures

Dear Governor Inslee:

Vice President

Ed Prince
Councilmember
City of Renton

As President of the Sound Cities Association (SCA), representing 38 cities and more than a million people in King County, I write to you today to urge you to reconsider some of the restrictions placed on businesses in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Treasurer

Jeff Wagner
Mayor
City of Covington

We appreciate the challenging job that you have in trying to address what is now both a health crisis, and an economic crisis. Like you, we are alarmed at the recent rise in cases, and recognize the role that we all must play in getting this virus under control – quickly.

Secretary

Amy Ockerlander
Mayor
City of Duval

As local leaders, we know that we must make temporary sacrifices now for the sake of our community health. We recognize the need to forego large family holiday gatherings this year, so that we can all be here to gather next year.

Immediate Past President

Leanne Guier
Mayor
City of Pacific

At the same time, we are deeply concerned that if restaurants and other small businesses are closed for the next four weeks, the harm may not be temporary. Many of the small businesses in our community will not be able to recover, and will not be back. We are concerned about the harm that this would cause not just to our small businesses and their employees, but also the permanent harm that this would cause to the long-term vibrancy and character of our cities in King County, and throughout the state.

Angela Birney
Mayor
City of Redmond

James McNeal
Councilmember
City of Bothell

We stand ready to assist you in working with our local restaurants to find ways that they can operate more safely. Many of our small businesses have invested heavily in improved ventilation, PPE, and other tools that could allow them to operate more safely. Restrictions on capacity, how long guests may stay, and how many guests may be seated at a table as well as requirements for mask wearing when not eating could all help improve safety, while still allowing limited indoor dining. If helpful, we would be happy to help work with our local businesses and chambers to come up with additional creative ideas.

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor
City of Issaquah

Wendy Weiker
Deputy Mayor
City of Mercer Island

If it is determined that there is no safe way for restaurants to offer in person dining, then we urge you in the alternative to work with the legislature to provide immediate and substantial relief to these small businesses. They cannot afford to wait weeks or months on the hope that Congress will act. If sufficient funding is not available from remaining CARES funding to adequately address the needs, we urge you to consider calling a special session of the legislature to address this crisis before the holidays.

Nancy Backus
Mayor
City of Auburn

Jan Molinaro
Mayor
City of Enumclaw

Christie Malchow
Deputy Mayor
City of Sammamish

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Executive Director Deanna Dawson at (206) 495-3265.

Laura Philpot
City Manager
City of Maple Valley

Sincerely,

Dana Ralph
President, Sound Cities Association

Executive Director
Deanna Dawson

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