

## BEVERLY COVID-19 EMERGENCY BUSINESS SUPPORT TASK FORCE

### DRAFT Highlights from Meeting on May 14, 2020

**Task Force participants:** Mayor Michael Cahill; Council President Paul Guanci; City Councilor Stacey Ames; City Councilor Estelle Rand; David Brown; William Burke; Rebecca Cammarata; Michael Collins; Sgt. David Costa; Denise Deschamps; Dr. Poonam Doshi; Andrew Gallant; Andrew Goldberg; David Goodwin; Leslie Gould; Brooke Hirshfield; William Howard; Christopher Koeplin; Chief John LeLacheur; Medley Long; Mia Lunt; Peter Lutts; Richard Marino; Jamie Metsch; Michael O'Brien; Casey Soward; Richard Vincent; Gin Wallace; Darlene Wynne.

**Other participants:** State Senator Joan Lovely; Benjamin McSheehy.

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- The Restaurant Subcommittee has met twice. If you are interested in participating, please contact Darlene Wynne or Gin Wallace. This subcommittee is also discussing outdoor dining, expansion of outdoor dining service opportunities and related licensing and regulatory issues.
  - Formation of other subcommittees is welcome. Other proposed subcommittees: (a) Non-Profit/Event Organizers; (b) Larger Businesses/Manufacturing.
  - Request to formalize list of subcommittees at next Task Force meeting.
  - Several municipal staff are reaching out to businesses to ask how they are doing/what they need.
  - Overview of responses to Business Community Survey. Critical issues:
    - Having the revenue to pay rent; insurance; staff
    - Consumer confidence to return
    - Access to PPE as re-opening nears
  - Greater Beverly Chamber of Commerce preparing consumer confidence survey and will be ready to distribute next week after receiving feedback
  - Beverly Main Streets will be distributing a survey asking restaurants about their desire to engage in outdoor dining and, if they wish to do so, do they currently have space on private property. Would they like to use a public space.
  - The City will be looking into potential locations to which outdoor dining may expand
  - Is there a mechanism to get the word out about businesses/restaurants having a plan in place to safely serve the public? This would help to enhance consumer confidence.
  - The Cabot is fully engaged in preparing a plan to ensure safe interactions when the public returns
  - The owners of Field House, Good Neighbor are implementing plans for re-opening including curb-side pick-up. These changes require time and staffing. The owners will focus on their Salem stores at the beginning, working to implement the new procedures one store at a time.

- Update on Cabot Street reconstruction and concerns related to repaving. What are the options available as regards repaving and associated time frames.
- Some businesses are reliant upon college students for a fair amount of staffing so they are looking to the future to see what local/area colleges will decide about the fall semester
- The Beverly Farmer's Market, an outdoor event, is also identified as essential. The President of the Farmer's Market has reach out to Beverly's Board of Health.
- The Greater Beverly Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a webinar on May 22. A representative of the SBA along with Mike Wheeler of North Shore Bank and Jim Cobb of Eastern Bank will be talking about the PPP and pursuing loan forgiveness. Leslie Gould will distribute information.
- Suggestion that as an alternative to larger outdoor events explore the possibility of smaller, neighborhood-based events
- Reminder that any accommodations made to restaurants to facilitate re-opening must be offered to restaurants city-wide. Also, keep in mind, the needs of breweries.
- Question if Governor's mandate for phase one re-opening will allow for businesses to invite back employees to prepare for re-opening
- Question to Beverly Board of Health regarding regulations related to restaurants being allowed to sell groceries