

Statement by Palm Springs Restaurant Owners

December 10, 2020

The following letter is being delivered to the Palm Springs City Council:

Mayor Holstege and City Council,

We stand today in unity: owners, chefs, managers, hosts, servers, bartenders, bussers, dishwashers, as a community that has suffered great losses not just financially but of co-workers, friends and family.

We are supportive of any initiatives to keep our workplace and our customers safe and healthy.

Everyone represented today has been cooperative and respectful when asked to repeatedly change or shut down our operations. We are the only sector who has had to invest 10's of thousands of dollars to make outside dining safe and comply with guidelines and yet we are again the first to be completely shut down. We can no longer continue to operate with take out only or be closed without assistance. Our livelihoods our ability to provide homes for our families and food on the table is now at stake and needs to be considered.

We are not asking to reopen outside or inside dining immediately. We are asking to work together to create a plan that will allow us to be back in business as soon as possible.

We understand this is a crisis moment and we all need to do our part to keep ICU beds open for those who need them but we all need to work together under the same parameters for us to continue moving forward.

We are asking for the arbitrary enforcement of the rules to end. For common sense, valid reasoning, and factual information to be used as each decision is made for this city. For all businesses to be held accountable if they are not abiding by the orders handed down. We are asking for safety and protection for ourselves our employees and our co-workers as we navigate the public daily.

We are also asking for financial assistance from the city to help us survive this difficult time. This city is built on our visitors. We know our worth and the importance of our businesses to this city. If we close more restaurants, less people come here. The taxes that the city collects on hotel rooms and travel will significantly drop and stay there. It will destroy this beautiful community that is our workplaces and our homes. Many of us have been part of the rebuilding of Palm Springs over the past 15 years. We have been constant supporters of charities and have given much back to our community. We also know that should we fail, someone else will

come, rebuild and carry on but we feel we have earned the right to have a chance to survive and we cannot do this without your help.

We are asking, once again, for the council to look at the 3 million dollars of additional funding budgeted for the new downtown park. Times have changed since August when it seemed things were opening up. Our industry is in a state of emergency. Our employees and businesses are in an even more critical position than early in the pandemic.

We would like to meet as soon as possible with everyone on city council to discuss the re-appropriation of these city's funds to help the restaurant community and its employees to regain their footing and go back to fully serving the community when the time is right. We are asking that those of you who voted that spending an additional 3 million dollars on the Downtown Park would re-evaluate your position that it is a necessity and instead consider us, our families, our shelter, our very lives a greater necessity.

We are ready to create a collaboration that will inspire other cities to do the same and continue to change our industry and lives for the better.

Palm Springs Restaurant Owners

Mindy Reed, Zin American Bistro, Revel Public House

Liz Ostoich, Farm, TacQuila

Chad Gardner, Roly China Fusion, 533 Viet Fusion

Gabe Terrado, LuLu California Bistro

Johannes Bacher, Johannes

Dennis Costa & Tom Beatty, Bouschet Wine

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