

Long Beach Economic Partnership

April 29, 2020

Honorable Rex Richardson, Chairman
Honorable Stacy Mungo, Vice Chair
Honorable Roberto Uranga, Member
Economic Development & Finance Committee
City Council, City of Long Beach

RE: SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING - LONG BEACH COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Dear Council members,

As chairman of the Long Beach Economic Partnership (LBEP), this letter is to commend you on the informational hearing regarding efforts to “reopen” Long Beach and strategies for the city’s economic recovery. The LBEP, in collaboration with the City’s Economic Development team, is moving quickly to respond to the crisis and stands ready to assist in Long Beach’s long-term recovery.

In response to the crisis, the Partnership will soon be launching a Small Business Resiliency Grant Program whose aim will be to provide mini-grants to local small businesses who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The Partnership’s initial focus will be on micro-businesses that may have not been able to access federal small business assistance programs. We are working in collaboration with the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship, regional SBDC and local business associations. Blair Cohn, chair of the Council of Business Associations and head of the Bixby Knolls BIA is leading this effort on behalf of the Partnership.

Additional information on the Long Beach Economic Partnership’s Small Business program will be released soon in conjunction with the launch of our new branding including our logo and website. The Partnership is continuing to work with the City team, as well as with local and regional partners, to assess additional options to assist in Long Beach’s economic recovery and resurgence.

As you may recall, the Long Beach Economic Partnership was formally established in June 2019 as a 501(c)3 non-profit to achieve the Economic Blueprint’s objective of launching a citywide economic development public-private partnership. The Partnership’s board is comprised of leaders from the private sector, academic institutions, non-profits and government agencies.

Thank you again for your efforts. The Long Beach Economic Partnership welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Council’s Economic Development & Finance Committee to advise on policies and programs to accelerate the city’s recovery.

Sincerely,



Randal Hernandez
Chairman, Long Beach Economic Partnership
randaljh@icloud.com
562.895.4665