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Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:53 PM

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Subject: item 27 tonight regarding hotel bed tax discussion/comments on the item

-EXTERNAL-

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance and local area hotels, I wanted to comment on item 27 specifically the wording addressing TOT.

The Long Beach hotel and lodging market began seeing impacts from COVID-19 on/or around February 1, 2020 as tourism to Southern California started to decline as foreign markets restricted travel. After a local state of Emergency was declared, hotels experienced further decline of occupancy due in part to the cancellation of conventions.

At this time, I am urging you to execute any and all tax relief and implement emergency funding measures to support the hotel industry. A few recommendations:

1. Postponement of Transient Occupancy Taxes - next payment I believe is due on March 25th.
2. Letter to LA County Treasure Tax Collector urging postponement of property taxes due in April for 90 or 180 days.
3. Establish guidelines and necessary financial information needed from the hotels to consider TOT rebates during this emergency crisis.
4. Any rebates of TOT should include payments to any hotel employee that has been laid off or seen his/her hours reduced.

Thank you for your consideration in this emergency situation.

Best Regards,
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