



May 15, 2020

Mayor Jacques Gilbert
Town of Apex
PO Box 250
Apex, NC 27502

Dear Mayor Gilbert:

As you know, during the unprecedented times that we are in our local businesses are hurting. Thank you to the Town of Apex for being a leader in the county by creating the Apex Small Business Loan Program! I know of many chamber members who will be applying for this loan and are extremely grateful to the town for making this opportunity available. The loan will give the businesses that apply some hope that they will make it through this challenging time.

I am writing to let you know about an initiative that the Apex Chamber of Commerce is facilitating. In partnership with the Apex Sunrise Rotary Foundation and other concerned citizens we have created an Angel Fund. The idea of the Angel Fund is to raise \$200,000 and award grants to Apex based businesses up to \$3,500. Two neighboring towns, Fuquay Varina and Holly Springs have been extremely successful with their campaigns and I believe we will be too.

We are reaching out to large businesses that have not been negatively affected financially during this time including grocery stores, drug stores, big box stores (Target/Walmart), etc. to assist us in funding this Angel Fund. I am hopeful that these organizations will realize how fortunate that they have been during this time and see the importance of helping the smaller businesses in our town that truly are the backbone of our community.

I am reaching out to you today to ask that the Town of Apex consider contributing to this fund. No gift is too small and is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Additionally, I am reaching out to ask you and the council to consider supporting the Apex Chamber of Commerce during this challenging time. A chamber of commerce is the center of business in communities across the country. We not only support our membership but we also support our local communities on behalf of the town we serve by facilitating recognition and events for our teachers, first responders, youth leadership and hold a candidates forum during election years. We also raise money each year to give to our local schools to assist children who may go without.

As a 501(c)(6) we do not qualify for a PPP loan at this time. As you can imagine, our members are not renewing at an alarming rate and all of our fundraising events have been cancelled until further notice. We would be extremely grateful for any amount that is offered; however, we are asking that you and the council to consider a donation in the amount of \$20,000. We believe that this amount will help assist us throughout the summer months.

Until we are able to host events again, all our efforts will be towards raising money for our small businesses in Apex. It's our honor as an organization to help give small businesses in Apex a little bit of hope during this challenging time.

On behalf of the Apex Chamber Board of Directors thank you for your consideration of the above requests.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon K. Flaherty".

Shannon K. Flaherty
Executive Director

cc: Drew Havens, Town Manager

220 N Salem St. Apex, NC 27502 919-362-6456 www.apexchamber.com

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