



## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 5/20/21

**From:** Stuart Schillinger, Assistant City Manager

**Subject:** COVID19 Business Relief Program

### **Community Goal/Result**

Economic Development

#### **Purpose**

Assist businesses in Brisbane impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, assist restaurants within Brisbane to assist with their ability to provide service to the public.

#### **Recommendation**

1. Allocated \$50,000 to support restaurants that have applied for assistance through SAMCEDA.
2. Allocate \$100,000 and direct staff to set-up a program for business assistance for the mostly severely impacted small businesses in Brisbane

#### **Background**

The Federal Government has adopted the Paycheck Protection Act, which was meant to assist small businesses with support during COVID-19 interruptions. The program was administered through the banking system and did not seem to assist all of the businesses that needed help. This was due to a variety of factors including; lack of adequate funding, complicated rules, and distribution of capital throughout the County. The upshot of this was a number of businesses within San Mateo County and possibly Brisbane either did not qualify or apply for funds due to the rules. Additionally, the County of San Mateo put money into the San Mateo Strong Fund to assist restaurants during the COVID-19 emergency.

On February 10, 2021 City Council discussed the possibility of setting money aside to assist small businesses in Brisbane that were impacted by COVID. Council determined it wanted to wait until after the SAMCEDA program awarded its money. The SAMCEDA program allowed for restaurants with a full service kitchen to apply for a grant up to \$10,000. Six restaurants in Brisbane applied for this grant, only one received it. The names of the restaurants which did not receive funding were not disclosed to staff.

## **Discussion**

The Economic Development Subcommittee met on May 7, 2021 to make a recommendation to the full City Council. The Committee is recommending that the City allocate \$50,000 towards the SAMCEDA program so the remaining 5 restaurants could receive grants. The County will determine the eligibility. There are a number of criteria that need to be met including; having a full-service kitchen, being properly licensed, having a business license from the City, have been negatively impacted by COVID.

The subcommittee then discussed what program it could create for other businesses within the City. Originally, in February the thought was to assist businesses located in the traditional business district (Visitacion Avenue and the Village Shopping Center), however, the Subcommittee determined that there are many small business located outside of these areas that might need assistance. These include both home based businesses, and businesses that are in some of the smaller spaces in Crocker Industrial Park.

The Committee determined it wanted to assist as many of these businesses as possible.

Summary of recommended program:

Dollar Amount \$100,000 from General Fund

Eligibility: Businesses \$5,000,000 or less

Loss of 25% of revenues for a recent 12-month period

Business commits to be open after the COVID19 emergency is over

Located in Brisbane and having a Brisbane Business License.

Amount per business: No more than \$2,500

Staff is working with SAMCEDA to see if there is an outside agency, which can administer these funds for the City. If there isn't the Economic Development Manager and Assistant City Manager will create a method for the applications to be taken within the City.

## **Fiscal Impact**

Allocate \$150,000 from the General Fund. The City anticipates receiving \$800,000 from the American Rescue Plan. We will receive this in two allotments. One this fiscal year and one next fiscal year. One purpose of this money is to assist businesses directly impacted by COVID. Therefore, this is an appropriate use of these funds. These funds were not included in the projections provided during the mid-year review.

## **Measure of Success**

Provide a minimum of 20 businesses assistance.

Stuart Schillinger

Stuart Schillinger, Assistant City Manager



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Clay Holstine, City Manager