



May 20, 2020

**Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Sacramento, CA 95814**

CITY COUNCIL

Richard Montgomery
Mayor

Suzanne Hadley
Mayor Pro Tem

Hildy Stern
Councilmember

Steve Napolitano
Councilmember

Nancy Hersman
Councilmember

**RE: Request to Eliminate Retail Curbside-Only Restrictions and Allow
Manhattan Beach Retail Businesses to Fully Open under State and
County Guidelines**

Honorable Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your ongoing support and continued efforts on behalf of our communities. We understand the tough choices every elected leader has to make during this unprecedented time.

We are urgently writing to you today because the small business owners in the City of Manhattan Beach need your immediate help.

They are faced with excruciating choices as they experience huge losses in income, unpaid bills, crushing debt and increasing hopelessness with each day that their businesses are not allowed to fully open. Locally, we have a Target and Costco that are fully open to customers because they were deemed "essential." We note that shopping habits are shifting to the big box stores and our small retail businesses *must* be allowed to compete or lose their customers forever. Or worse, close forever.

The resulting economic injustice is unfair to our local mom and pop businesses that can just as easily follow the same health and safety protocols as the big box stores. They sell the same products and they should be allowed to follow the same rules. Limiting our small retailers to curbside only delivery is unjust and unsustainable.

Many of our businesses have stated that they will not survive beyond Memorial Day weekend if only allowed curbside delivery. We respectfully request that they be allowed to fully open immediately.

You can make this happen today.

MANHATTAN BEACH CITY HALL

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

www.citymb.info o (310) 802-5400

By every measure set out by the State and County, Manhattan Beach is below the average target rates for infections and deaths, and above the average target rates for hospital capacity, PPE supplies and testing availability. Our retailers are ready to implement the required industry safety protocols to ensure employees and customers are protected. [See addendum.]

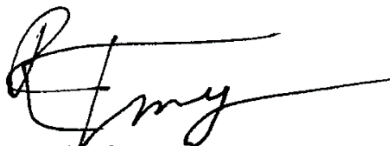
The economic impact to this community is devastating. However, the rate of infection remains very low. Since Public Health began tracking COVID-19 cases, the City has only 74 positive confirmations. In context, this means Manhattan Beach has less than one quarter of one percent of all positive cases in Los Angeles County. More recently, the number of new daily positive cases has dramatically decreased in Manhattan Beach. Since the beginning of May, the City is averaging an increase of 0.4 cases, while LA County is averaging 890 cases per day.

In light of this, the City of Manhattan Beach respectfully requests that the County of Los Angeles and the State of California allow our retailers to fully open without curbside only restrictions, while following the State and County safety protocols.

Our residents have registered unprecedented support for our businesses to fully open. Our Downtown Business and Professional Association received 2,266 survey responses between May 14 and May 16, with 81% of the responses in favor of fully opening our businesses immediately if they can do so safely.

Manhattan Beach businesses need a hero. They want you to be that hero. We respectfully ask for your response before our 8:00 AM scheduled City Council meeting this Thursday, May 21, 2020 so that we can let our business community know where you stand. We hope you stand with our businesses in letting them fully open this Memorial Day weekend so their recovery can begin.

Sincerely,



Richard Montgomery
Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach

Addendum: State and County Retail Guidance & Protocols

- CC: Honorable State Senator Ben Allen**
- Honorable State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi**
- Honorable County Supervisor Janice Hahn**
- Manhattan Beach City Council**
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**
- Mayors, South Bay Cities**