

Dear Rainier Business Owner,

The COVID-19 crisis has had unprecedented impacts on every corner of our community. This is an event of a lifetime.

One of the most hard-hit sectors of Rainier has been our business community. We are not a city with thousands of employers and large corporations. We are a community of small businesses, many with a long presence in our city.

As one of those businesses, you are the economic lifeblood of Rainier, providing services to the larger area and vital jobs to many of our neighbors. Now, all that has been halted in the name of public safety. While that is a worthy cause, it does not pay bills that continue to accrue, provide employment that supports local families and in turn more business opportunities. It also is a psychological hit, causing anxiety, fear, and anger for those who have seen a lifetime of hard work threatened and for those who suddenly have no paycheck for the foreseeable future through no fault of their own.

Relief in the form of direct payments and loans, are the work of the federal government, particularly the Small Business Administration. The situation in Washington, D.C. is fluid and seems to change daily. Keeping up can be frustrating and bewildering. It is not something that has done a lot to calm the nerves of those hanging on, hoping for better times ahead.

While there is little a city government can do directly to assist local businesses, we do have a staff that is working to stay on top of developments, seek out aid from a variety of sources, and can assist in gathering some of the information that is demanded by lenders and government agencies.

To that end, I have asked staff to compile a list of phone numbers, addresses, email addresses, and internet links that can direct you to programs and help keep you up to date as the situation evolves.

This information, available online by clicking here: [small business resources link](#), is a start. That means this information is more for reference than up to the minute news. For that, I want to direct you to the City or Rainier website, [www.cityofrainier.com](http://www.cityofrainier.com), where up to date information will be posted as it becomes available.

Also, I am offering the time and effort of city staff and its resources to assist you as much as possible in accessing this imminently needed aid. If you find you need assistance in applying for a loan or grant or assistance cutting through the red tape that is an inevitable part of these programs, city staff will do its best to help.

We are truly all in this together and the safety of each of us individually will be the savior of our collective vitality. There will be better times ahead. For now, I am committed to us all successfully getting through these extraordinary times with an eye to a better future for all of us that call Rainier home.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cole  
Mayor, City of Rainier