



CITY OF PUYALLUP

April 15, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: **Business Support During “Stay Home, Stay Healthy”**

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Puyallup City Council, thank you for your efforts to protect our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the thought and care you and your team have put into the statewide response to the recent outbreak and efforts to mitigate the virus' spread. We recognize the delicate balance you must make between public health and the impacts on our economy.

Clearly, the public health crisis is our top focus, but the economic aftershocks are huge. Our local small businesses are struggling immensely. In a recent survey of our local businesses, 92% indicated they have had impacts to their revenue and 75% have laid-off or reduced staff hours.

Today we are reaching out to request and encourage you to consider some changes to the Stay Home Stay Safe Order that will support our local businesses. Our business community is critical for a healthy economy and provides tax revenues that support essential services like police and public works. We have the following requests:

Allow Car Dealership Businesses Greater Flexibility

Vehicle sales are a critical component of our local economy. They provide jobs, meet important transportation needs of our community, and provide vital sales tax revenue. Moreover, please consider the challenges many in our community face as their financial outlook changes. For example, a large number of our constituents have been laid off and cannot afford vehicle payments but have no way to address that since they cannot currently trade down or sell a vehicle to relieve the financial strain.

We request you and your staff to consider the following:

- Allow car dealerships to provide more opportunities to customers than currently exist under the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order. These

opportunities can be done in a reasonable manner by allowing the car dealerships to provide sales opportunities and still use best practices of social distancing and other measures to provide a safe environment for employees and customers. For example, allowing online sales, meetings by appointments with appropriate social distancing, and “home delivery” of vehicles.

- We would encourage you to consider a model like the one being used in Oregon’s Stay Home, Save Lives Order, which allows car dealerships to be open for all customers so long as the business follows social distancing and other public health and safety guidelines.

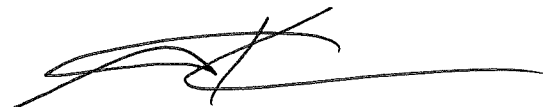
Allow other Retail Businesses More Flexibility to Operate

The continuity of Puyallup’s business community is a priority for us, and we ask you to consider the long-lasting financial impacts that many of these companies are sustaining right now. Any relief in allowing limited operations during this time, that is conducted in a safe and healthy way, will help them stay afloat until we can return to business as usual at the end of this crisis. For instance, some items for you and your staff to consider:

- Designate an employee to establish and implement social distancing policies, consistent with guidance from the Washington State Department of Health.
- Strictly enforce social distancing policies and ensure these policies are maintained and followed.
- If social distancing is not possible or practicable inside a business, allow for more flexibility such as online or telephone orders and customers can use curbside pickup or home delivery, while still maintaining social distancing guidelines.

Puyallup is proud of our business community and we, just like other communities across the state, have made tremendous sacrifices to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are with you, now and for the duration.

Sincerely,



Steve Kinkelie
City Manager