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## **IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER; COMEDY & ENTERTAINMENT VENUES FORCED TO CLOSE** ***Councilmember Chris Cate Requests Comedy Clubs Be Able to Operate Safely Outdoors***

San Diego, CA: As COVID-19 continues to keep San Diego on lockdown, many businesses are still struggling to survive. While we are thankful that some businesses can operate in a reduced capacity, such as outdoor restaurants, gyms, salons, and religious services, there are still a variety of small businesses that need assistance.

One industry on the verge of collapse is our entertainment industry, particularly comedy clubs. Since the beginning of the Pandemic, the Comedy Palace in Kearny Mesa has lost more than \$90,000 per month. This industry helps stimulate our local economy and provides much needed laughter during these challenging times.

San Diego's entertainment industry is largely comprised of small businesses who collectively employ thousands of persons. While many live entertainment businesses have licenses to operate as restaurants, their main source of revenue is through ticket sales.

In the comedy industry, shows are typically 45-minutes to an hour long, comparable to the typical restaurant table turnover time of 50-60 minutes.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our regional economy. It is my goal to help all businesses navigate these trying times so they can continue to put food on the tables for their guests and their families," stated Chris Cate, Chair of the City's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

With San Diego's removal from the State's COVID-19 watch list, Councilmember Cate is requesting that the County of San Diego re-evaluate its Public Health Orders to allow entertainment venues to safely operate outdoors in a socially distant setting for performances lasting no longer than one hour.

View Councilmember Cate's memorandum here: <https://bit.ly/2FK7EwX>

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