



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing to respectfully request your office take emergency executive action to allow hair salons and barbershops to operate outdoors. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, countless local businesses have had to deal with changes to their operations in order to adapt to rapidly changing regulations. Small businesses account for 98 percent of San Diego businesses and the impacts COVID-19 has had on our small businesses, many which are family owned and run, have been significant.


The City of San Diego has taken action to provide a lifeline to these businesses to allow them to operate safely in a modified format. The City has allocated millions of dollars in funding for small business relief, identified private foundations to support employees and their families, and worked side-by-side with minority-owned small businesses in their native languages to ensure they understand what is needed to survive the closures. In particular, local barbershops and hair salons have felt severe strain from the current public health orders. In the City of San Diego alone, there are over 1,500 barbershops and hair salons serving our residents. Due to yesterday's amended order from your office, all local barbershops and hair salons face imminent closure and many of these establishments will not survive a second mandatory shutdown.

As Mayor of the second largest city in the state and the Chair of the City of San Diego's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, we take our role of supporting our thousands of business owners and employees seriously. Similar to the actions already taken to temporarily allow for the expansion of outdoor dining and retail on the public right-of-way, private parking lots, or other public spaces, barbershops and hair salons should be given the opportunity to provide services in an outdoor setting with public safety modifications in place. Unfortunately, due to existing state laws governing hair salon and barbershop operations, the California State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology has determined that all hair salons and barbershops in counties on the state's watch list must cease operations, including all outdoor operations.

We respectfully request your office review and temporarily amend state code through emergency action to allow hair salons and barbershops to operate outdoors. The City of San Diego remains determined and steadfast in providing a pathway for businesses to safely operate as we recover from this pandemic. Thank you for your consideration to give more businesses the tools necessary to do so.

Sincerely,


Kevin L. Faulconer
Mayor


Chris Cate
Councilmember, Sixth District