




**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 24, 2020

TO: Governor Gavin Newsom, Governor of California

FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6 

SUBJECT: Request for the County to Allow Comedy Clubs to Operate Safely
Outdoors

As Covid-19 continues to keep San Diego on lockdown, many businesses are still struggling to survive. While we are thankful that some businesses are able to 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 personnel. While many live entertainment businesses have licenses to operate as restaurants, their main source of revenue is ticket sales.

In the comedy industry, shows are typically 45-minutes to an hour long, comparable in time to the typical restaurant table turnover time of 50-60 minutes. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our regional economy, and as the Chair of the City's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, 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.

As such, with San Diego's removal from the State's Covid-19 watch list, I request that the County of San Diego reevaluate 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.

cc: Kevin L. Faulconer, Mayor
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Honorable, Dr. Wilma Wooten, County of San Diego Public Health Officer