

City Council Regular Meeting - May 27, 2020

Agenda Item No. 8 – Public Comment

CONSENT CALENDAR,

8. Discussion of Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce's Request for a Local Variance, from Los Angeles County, for an Accelerated Stage 2 Reopening

STAFF REFERENCE: ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER HAMBURGER

Email Correspondence (7)*
(listed in the order received)

*Carol Livingston
Mark Carlson
Shirley Bowen
Bill Hynes
Daniel Farkash
Tommy Altobello
Diane Gomez*

*The attached email(s) were received after the printing and distribution of the regular Agenda Packet, distributed to the City Council and posted to the City's website.

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Carol Livingston <dangarmom@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Restaurant reopenings

Dear Mayor Webber,

This past weekend we went to Oxnard so we could feel human again instead of like caged animals. I was so impressed with the both the restaurants and the public in their respect for safety. Rules were followed by the establishments and the long lines of patrons waited patiently and respectfully outside just to be allowed the opportunity to dine out.

I am very concerned about our local restaurants and businesses. We have been trying to order takeout but we are on a budget and can't afford to do it every day. I heard that Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Lancaster are joining together to request permission from LA County to reopen since they are so far away from downtown where most of the problem lies. Couldn't we also do that with Hidden Hills, Calabasas, and Westlake Village?

When we returned from Oxnard our city looked like a ghost town compared to the life I saw in Oxnard. Agoura Hill will be far from "The Good Life" if we don't open soon. Our restaurants and local businesses will be forced to close, property values will go down and we will look like the bastard child between Calabasas and Westlake Village.

I beg you to PLEASE do whatever is needed to reopen our city!

Respectfully,
Carol Livingston

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Mark Carlson <mcc@carlsonlawgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Comments
Subject: May 27, 2020 Agenda Item No. 4

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The "one size fits all" ordinance of Los Angeles that impose the same restrictions on individuals and business throughout the entire County irrespective of infection rates. The City of Agoura Hills has the 30th lowest case rate of all cities within Los Angeles County. The number of cases in the City of Agoura Hills is only 39. The case rate here is only slightly higher than in neighboring Thousand Oaks but is well below those in Moorpark and Simi. Yet, an arbitrary county line allows business in those cities to open and people to return to work.

Going two months without income or revenue is not sustainable for most. There is no reason to prolong this economic disaster.

I can certainly envision businesses moving out of Agoura Hills and into locations on the Ventura Co. side of the Conejo Valley when their leases expire. It is hard to understand the logic of my not being able to walk to the Old Place for dinner, but I can drive 10 minutes into Thousand Oaks or Westlake and do exactly that.

The leadership of the City of Agoura Hills should be pushing the County of Los Angeles to take into account the facts and circumstances in the City of Agoura Hills and re-open on a more tailored timeline.

Respectfully,

Mark Carlson



Mark C Carlson

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Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Shirley Bowen <sfbbuin@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Comments
Subject: open up agoura Hills

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Please consider opening up Agoura Hills and L.A part of Westlake. Westlake Village is open and right next to us. We are no where near all of L A Co and have had very little cases of the virus.

Makes no send.

Plases like Latigo Kid have taken so many changes to conform to the things needed to make the place safe. Tile floor, bathroom which are No touch, and they do have an outside patio.

Hair salons should open, .with restrictions of how many customers can be in one area .A lot of salons can do this very easily.

Please look it over for all of us

Shirley Bowen

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Bill Hynes <wmhll@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Bill Hynes
Subject: Opening Agoura Businesses

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As a resident of Agoura Hills and a father of six kids, all raised in Agoura, I have reviewed all of the issues involved in the reopening of businesses in our area. In reviewing this issue, I spent a good deal of time this weekend looking at the phased reopening in Ventura County.

The Ventura County reopening has been for the most part, careful, measured and well within CDC guidelines. Looking at Agoura business owners, I find them no less responsible, measured or caring than business owners in Ventura County. The demographics and the philosophies of Agoura and Westlake residents are much more closely aligned with those of Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park than they are with Watts, Downtown LA or Compton.

I believe it terribly unfair to subject our local business owners to rules that don't match their level of responsibility and put them at a competitive disadvantage because of a geographic line.

The business owners in Agoura must be able to open under the very reasonable Ventura County rules or you will condemn them to unfair disadvantage and failure based on an unfair and random political criterion.

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Danny <danny@dnabuild4u.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 6:32 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Open Agoura

To our honorable Mayor and city Council,

Without a doubt, early pro active measures by Federal and local government has saved lives. New York, and other high density communities are a testimony to how devastating covid can be.

Agoura and many many other places are different. We are low density, we don't have subways and streets lined with high- rise office buildings. Our covid count is amongst the lowest locally.

Local business are suffering. Smaller business, which are the backbone; and the majority of our local economy and tax base should be allowed to open.

Basically, those who need to continue to shelter in place can do so. We as citizens, should be able to make informed decisions about our lives, and how to manage our individual needs.

Please open up our community!!

Best,
Daniel Farkash
DNA Construction
818-599-6842

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Tommy Altobello <taltobello@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Reopening restaurants

My wife and I are long time residence in Malibu and have been dining at Latigo Kids for many years. We would like to join the city of Agoura in requesting that the it be allowed to re-open restaurants along with Ventura County.

Thank you and good luck!

Tom Altobello

Sent from my iPhone

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Diane Gomez <thelatigokid@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:55 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Opening up The City of Agoura Hills

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"The L.A. County Board of Supervisors was considering letting some cities and communities reopen sooner than others if they have fewer cases of COVID-19, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday. The motion, co-authored by supervisors Janice Hahn Kathryn Berger, would allow variances within the region and cites the pandemic's unequal effect in the vast county. "This virus is impacting each city in our County differently; some cities have zero reported cases while others have case rates greater than 700 per 100,000 residents," the proposal reads. "All cities who believe they meet the state's variance criteria, and wish to be considered for a partial variance, should send their request initially to the County's Chief Executive Officer for submission to the County's Public Health Officer," the motion says. On Tuesday, Newsom acknowledged the request." **by: Kristina Bravo, Nouran Salahieh, Lauren Lyster**
Posted: May 26, 2020 / 10:02 AM PDT / **Updated:** May 26, 2020 / 11:12 PM PDT

It is imperative the The City of Agoura Hills take a leadership role to push for the reopening of restaurants in the city. Each and every day we are not open for dine-in customers, we risk having to close our doors permanently. The amount of business we are losing because our Ventura County restaurants are open is more then 30% of what we were selling prior to the county opening. We have been standing on one leg, and now we are on our knees. If you are not in this business, you do not know how difficult it is to own and operate a small business. The margins are very slim. We are ready to open and have a plan in place. The problem is, if we don't get to reopen very soon that plan will not matter because we can not continue to operate at this pace. Please take an aggressive role and act immediately to apply for a variance to open up the City of Agoura Hills to ALL businesses.

Thank you,
Diane Gomez
The Latigo Kid Mexican Restaurant