

Dear Westminster Business Community,

You have likely heard that the Tri-County Health Department and Jefferson County Health Department have just issued a Stay At Home Public Health Order for all residents and businesses in Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

We know there will be economic hardship and business closures as a result of this directive and we have been working closely with our health department leaders to try and limit the negative impact as much as possible.

A detailed list of what qualifies as "essential activities" and "essential business" is included in the full documents (<u>Tri County Public Health Order</u> and <u>Jefferson County</u> <u>Public Health Order</u>) and it's important to note that businesses not outlined in the "Essential Businesses" sections may continue to operate as long as employees or contractors work from home.

The top priority with this order is public health AND we know that our businesses will experience more economic difficulties. It is why the City of Westminster is doing the following:

- Tasking a group of the city's key economic and financial professionals to gather and secure data on the impacts of the epidemic on businesses and employers.
- Working in partnership with our local Chamber's (including the Westminster Chamber of Commerce and the Metro North Partnership) and other support organizations at the state and federal level to ensure we're supporting you in the most efficient and effective way possible.
- Updating a <u>dedicated COVID-19 Business Resources page</u> on our Economic Development website with information and tools as they are made available.
- Launching Project R.I.S.E. (Reinvestment, Innovation, Strengthening and Empowering our Community) within the City of Westminster effective immediately. This work group is comprised of a team of city staff from multiple departments and a task force from the business community will also be engaged. This recovery work group is charged with creating innovative

programs and initiatives to support Westminster businesses especially in the areas of working capital and workforce support. If you are interested in participating in this work group please email Stephanie Troller, Business Development Manager, at <u>stroller@cityofwestminster.us</u>.

This is the time to begin laying the groundwork for our complete recovery from COVID-19 and we are here to walk this journey with you as our city strives to do all that we can to support your future.

We end this message with hope. We continue to hear about signs of outreach and support in this time of crisis as landlords forgive a business tenant's rent payment that is due, as restaurant owners band together to raise money for their laid off workers and as customers slip envelopes of cash at their favorite entrepreneur's store. C.S. Lewis said it best, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." You are not alone.

Most sincerely,

John L. Hall Director of Economic Development

PS – We continue to believe firmly in the Westminster business community. If you have any thoughts or questions, please email Stephanie Troller, Business Development Manager, at <u>stroller@cityofwestminster.us</u> or call: Office 303-658-2318, Cell 720-454-5849.



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