



May 4, 2020

Office of Governor Tim Walz
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite 130
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for the Opening of Businesses in Jordan

Dear Governor Walz:

On behalf of the City of Jordan, thank you for all you have done to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community of Jordan understands the importance of staying at home and adhering to social distancing guidance to protect our residents and flatten the curve. We stood behind the State Stay at Home Order and respectfully request your consideration of the need expressed by our local business community for cooperation and assistance a safe and timely reopening. During this time, city staff and residents are doing their part to support local restaurants and businesses that are able to continue limited operations by making purchases online and ordering food to go. However, despite these efforts our small businesses are all suffering greatly.

The City of Jordan is a tight-knit community, and our businesses have played an important role in the weaving of our fabric. Jordan is a community that cares for the wellbeing of one another. The difficulty endured by our small business owners is felt by all in our community, much like an extended family. We held an input meeting recently to hear updates and feedback from our business owners and tears fell when the discussion came to the inevitable question: how much longer can you hold out under these conditions? Our salons, boutiques, bars and restaurants need a set date for reopening that is made known in advance so they are able to open safely and efficiently. They all feel confident in their abilities to accomplish proper health precautions, especially with consideration to their small size and the nature of our unique community. In fact, they believe they're better equipped to protect their neighbors than much larger big box stores that have remained open.

We respectfully request that small businesses, under self-imposed regulation, be allowed to open as soon as possible. Our business owners are committed to taking the steps necessary to open their doors in a way that is safe and in compliance with CDC and State guidelines. This includes implementing the following operating procedures:

- Creation of a "Safe Shop Zone" and *code-of-conduct* for all indoor spaces
- Limit to the number of individuals in each shop or restaurant - depending on the square footage
- Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers at the entry of each shop

JORDAN GOVERNMENT CENTER

210 EAST FIRST STREET, JORDAN, MN 55352 • PHONE: (952) 492-2535

- Rotated and sanitized fitting rooms after each customer
- Maintaining proper social distancing at all times, including at check out
- Sanitize the customers card before handing it back to them
- Mask mandatory/face covering zone for each customer, shop owner, and employees
- Posting signage informing high-risk customers to remain sheltered at home
- Posting guidelines for the "Safe Shop Zone" on every shop's website, social media and entry of each shop
- Making sure that every shop maintains uniformity, so the public feels safe when entering any one of the shops
- Reductions in seating to create and maintain proper social distancing

By taking these steps we strongly believe that our businesses can operate in a safe and controlled manor. Please consider allowing our businesses to open prior to May 18th. It is critical for our business owners, the economic viability, and the wellbeing of our community.

On behalf of our businesses, and our community, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Tanya Velishek
Mayor
City of Jordan

Jeremy Goebel
Councilmember
City of Jordan

Robert Whipps
Councilmember
City of Jordan

Terry Stier
Councilmember
City of Jordan

Jeff Will
Councilmember
City of Jordan

cc: Jordan Economic Development Authority
Representative Tony Albright
Senator Eric Pratt
Scott County Commissioner Barb Weckman Brekke

Approved by the Jordan City Council May 4, 2020