

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND
ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on businesses, schools, and organizations in the City of Independence, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, interpreting the group gathering and social distancing rules in Phase 2.5 of Jackson County's COVID-19 recovery plan has made it difficult for local businesses, schools, and organizations to operate and to plan events while complying with the recovery plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Independence supports the efforts of those who have been negatively impacted by the often confusing rules and orders issued by Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, a recent report entitled the "Main Street Index" found that nearly 85% of Main Street businesses have been impacted by the pandemic, with almost 15% experiencing a severe impact and the greatest impact being a significant reduction in sales; and

WHEREAS, compared to January 2020, total job postings in the Kansas City metropolitan region have decreased by 24.7%, small business revenue has decreased by 18.8%, the number of small businesses open has decreased by 15.8%, and employment rates have decreased by 6.6%; and

WHEREAS, these rules and orders have led to the cancellation of many time-honored traditions in the City of Independence, including the Santa-Cali-Gon Days Festival, the Halloween Parade, and the Holiday Homes Tour, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, similar resolutions of support have been adopted by the City of Grain Valley Board of Alderman and the City of Blue Springs City Council;

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 16, the State of Missouri moved into Phase 2 of the Show Me Strong Recovery Plan, under which there is no statewide public health order and Missouri is fully open for business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of Independence, Missouri expresses their support for local businesses, schools, and organizations during this challenging period and would urge the Jackson County Health Department to eliminate all restrictions in its COVID-19 recovery policies.

SECTION 2. That should the Jackson County Health Department fail to eliminate all restrictions in its COVID-19 recovery policies within the next 30 days, the Independence City Council will determine how to move forward with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness on behalf of the citizens and business community they represent, up to and including seeking injunctive relief from the Circuit Court.

SECTION 3. That the pursuit of said injunctive relief will also consider possible civil rights violations and Constitutional rights liabilities, along with any financial damages incurred by the City of Independence as a result of these egregious restrictions.

PASSED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2020, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager