

IT'S WELL PAST TIME TO START RELAXING COVID RESTRICTIONS !

1) Minimum COVID cases here in County; no hospital admissions. Increasing evidence that COVID isn't as dangerous or deadly as originally believed.

2) Other Counties are loosening restrictions: Ventura County (with a worse COVID situation) is now allowing golf, small work and private gatherings.

- So much for Ms. Doohan's "State restrictions don't allow that."

3) We all know the devastating economic consequences to workers, small businesses, social fiber, and tax revenues that are happening.

4) BOS MUST USE EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE TO HAVE MS. DOOHAN ALLOW "ESSENTIAL-FOR-THE-FUTURE" BUSINESSES TO REOPEN, SOON...before they have to close permanently. MS. DOOHAN HAS DETAILED PERMISSIBLE "ESSENTIAL" BUSINESSES IN HER 4-10 ORDER. PLEASE DIRECT HER INCLUDE THESE "COMMUNITY-RESOURCE" STORES AS WELL !

Because some retail stores serve a significant social fabric constituency, their loss will *significantly* alter community "quality-of-life" after COVID passes. Unique (they're the only one) stores like:

- Racines (FB) supplying the entire local art community.
- Sew n Sew (FB) supplying the fabric/sewing community.
- Feet First (FB) only shoe store on the Coast.
- Gallery Bookstore (Mendo) – the Coast's only general bookstore
- Many, many other similar retailers each city can supply.
- Important Community Institutions like Mendocino Art Center and Botanical Gardens are also suffering severe financial stresses.

Important: There is no logical reason to keep these businesses closed. These key businesses can implement the exact same health-safety policies other essential businesses now open (Safeway, MendoMill, etc.) use: safe-distancing, disinfecting common surfaces, limiting numbers in the store, gloves, etc. BTW, their smaller size and easier control of customers actually makes them "safer" places.

5) TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Many of these businesses will go under soon. Don't wait for that artificial May 10 date to revise the order. Do it this week!

6) BOS should start assessing reopening from a cost-risk-benefit standpoint for ALL closed businesses and activities. Ms. Doohan's obviously singular focus on preventing COVID spread comes at much too high a price for the 98% of community who won't contract it

and/or need medical care. The crippling negative economic and social consequences are just too important.

7) The public is showing increasing signs of rebellion against restrictions. Better take the lead and open up key areas safely rather than lose control to people saying, "Too much," and ignoring all safety precautions.

Thank you,

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