

Amendment 1 to Council Bill 1119977
2020 Restaurant, Bars, and Worker COVID Relief

Sponsor: Chair Mosqueda

Add or modify recitals expressing Council's intent on providing this COVID Relief

Insert the following recitals, shown in red underlined text, to Page 3, starting on line 15, in Council Bill 119977:

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WHEREAS, the 2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs estimates that nearly 48 percent of the firms in the accommodation and food services industry in the Seattle metropolitan area are owned by black, indigenous, and people of color; and

WHEREAS, the economic disruptions to restaurants and bars caused by COVID-19 have placed a sudden and severe financial strain on many restaurants and bars and with the recent Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order issued on November 15, 2020, restaurants and bars are struggling to meet existing financial commitments and remain open during and after the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, initial analysis indicates that of the over 3800 applications for a Small Business Stabilization Grant in the City's completed in the most recent application round that closed on November 30, 2020: over 85 percent of the businesses have ten or fewer employees, over 60 percent of applicants are from BIPOC communities, and about 29 percent represent restaurant and bar businesses; and

WHEREAS, restaurants and bar businesses with ten or fewer employees should be prioritized for this next round of grants; and

WHEREAS, the City will endeavor to further aid recipients of these business grants through existing and future non-monetary relief, including flexible permit options for outdoor dining areas; and

WHEREAS, these actions were appropriate for public health reasons but result in severe economic impacts on businesses, workers, families, and individuals in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, these impacts are felt most strongly by workers with low incomes who have become unemployed or had their work hours severely reduced; and

WHEREAS, federal and state assistance to workers with low incomes has not been sufficient to meet their basic needs during this public health and financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, without additional support, many workers in the hospitality industry with low incomes will face severe financial hardship which will have significant negative impacts, including but not limited to public health impacts, greater housing insecurity, as well as impacts to small businesses and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the City can provide flexible direct cash assistance to workers in hospitality industry impacted by this crisis to help meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that direct cash assistance to low-income workers benefits the greater economy and allows workers to make decisions about immediate needs; and

WHEREAS, many other businesses are still unable to open to the public, or can only operate within limits, as a result of the necessary measures taken to protect the public health; and

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Effect: This amendment adds or modifies the recitals in Council Bill 119977 to provide more specificity in Council's intent regarding awarding these funds and the benefits to the businesses, workers, and public.