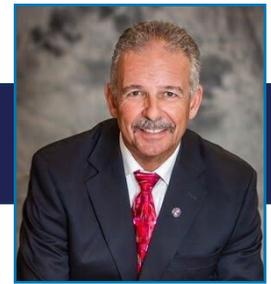


MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

August 1, 2020



COVID-19 A microscopic virus with massive consequences felt in every corner of the world.

But it will come to an end.

Now more than ever, we need to set aside polarizing differences and work together for the benefit of all. The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective efforts of everyone, and we must all take responsibility where we can.

I want to acknowledge all the hard work done by Oceanside business owners throughout this pandemic.



Through the ever-changing regulations, Oceanside businesses and employees have truly suffered. Upon

reopening, many determinedly pivoted to initiate temperature monitoring among their staff, installed protective equipment, and taken intensive disinfection steps to make their workplaces safer.

There's never been a more important time to shop local to support these local heroes. If you are able, please -- order takeout. Buy gift certificates. Support arts organizations, most of who remain closed. Buy what you need at a small local business. Small gestures can make a big difference, and one constructive act has the potential to help many others.



There are *other* things we can do to help during this pandemic, too. This virus reminds us that we are all connected. Give blood. Donate to our local food bank. Check in on your elderly neighbors. Call a friend that lives alone. Thank a healthcare worker. Be as supportive as you're able.

In the meantime, please take common sense measures to protect yourself and others from this virus. According to a [new modeling study](#), if enough people wore face coverings when around others, it would slow the spread and prevent

further waves of infection. This buys us time as treatments and vaccines are in development. It's important that we don't lose hope and confidence in the efforts that so many are taking.

It's crystal clear that Oceanside is a City of resilience. We have coped and adapted through difficult times before. And we find ways to persevere together. At the pandemic's start, the City shifted gears to provide meaningful services in these times of extraordinary need. We built ground-up multi-pronged beneficial programs for both residents and businesses. We innovated to help customers weather the health crisis safely from home by providing online services, home delivery of meals and Library materials -- even arts and crafts. We GIS-mapped shifting regulations. At a time when a simple trip to the store seemed difficult or risky for many, we lined up volunteers to make the trip for them. We made phone calls to check in on seniors. The City Council focused on fundamentals with food and other resources. [Measure X](#) revenue helped us house some of the most vulnerable homeless individuals. We initiated a [Utility Relief Program for Businesses](#), a [Small Business Loan Program](#), and a [Hire Local Program](#). We provided information on everything from mental health resources to free legal consultations. And we developed programs to build [workforce recovery](#) -- all while taking steps to help City staff operate safely to continue to provide the most critical municipal functions like water, fire and police protection.



The City's mission was met with creative perseverance, and the last many months have caused us to be better prepared and be a more cohesive, collaborative team for what will be the next inevitable crisis in the years to come.

When we unite, our ability to overcome challenges together is limitless. Don't lose hope. Remember, Oceanside----this isn't forever. It's just for right now.

Sincerely,

Peter Weiss