



Downtown Brampton BIA

March 26, 2020

Mayor Patrick Brown & Brampton City Council
City of Brampton
2 Wellington Street
Brampton, ON,
L6Y 4R2

Dear Mayor Patrick Brown and Members of Brampton Council,

On behalf of the Downtown Brampton BIA board of directors, staff and the 300 + business owners and 140 landlords in the Downtown Brampton BIA that we represent, we write to you in regards to the COVID-19 crisis.

Many Brampton small business owners have effectively lost their jobs and sadly have had to lay off most of their staff. The order to close of all non-essential businesses on March 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. and the enforcement of social distancing, downtown business revenue has literally plummeted and in some cases come to a halt, with no revenue generation at all.

Despite this, business expenses remain the same and in some cases expenses have even increased.

With April 1st on the horizon, many businesses will not be able to afford to pay their monthly rent, hydro bill and other regular businesses expenses at this time and could potentially decide to close down their business immediately. With the Novel Corona-19 Virus here, businesses across Canada have had to close to ensure the safety and fight to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic at this time.

In Brampton our downtown retailers, restaurants and small businesses need immediate and direct support today. This means assistance with cash flow now. The survival of our small businesses is vital, as small business are the backbone of our Ontario and Canadian economy. We know how difficult it is for our downtown retail and restaurant community to keep afloat in a more normal economic climate, however with the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to help these businesses over the next 4-6 months to recover from this world health crisis.

In addition to this, we have heard from many of our downtown businesses the concern for safety and security in the downtown, while most of the business community has temporarily closed down, the Downtown Brampton BIA would like to find out what the safety and security plan is for the downtown area. Given the recent safety issues we have experienced in the past year, this concern for safety is paramount at this time.

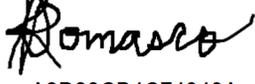
We have also attached two letters in support of small business from our colleagues from the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association – OBIAA and the Toronto Business Area Association - TABIA.

In closing, we thank you for your leadership and immediate action to date as the City of Brampton navigates through the COVID-19 health crisis and we look forward to future discussions on keeping our downtown businesses in business.

Sincerely,



Suzy Godefroy
Executive Director
Downtown Brampton BIA

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Kristina Romasco
Chair
Downtown Brampton BIA

Cc:

City of Brampton Council
Peter Fay, City of Brampton
David Barrick, CAO, City of Brampton
Todd Letts, Brampton Board of Trade
MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria
Sonia Sidhu, MP - Brampton South
Minister Lisa Macleod
Minister Morneau
Minister Ng