

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of

Economic Recovery in Clackamas
County Post-Pandemic



Resolution No. _____

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WHEREAS, since March 4, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Clackamas County with unprecedented interruptions in all aspects of our daily life; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic in conjunction with emergency measures from the Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority have closed schools and day cares, shuttered restaurants and bars, and imposed social distancing requirements that made office work environment virtually untenable; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive unemployment resulting in those once gainfully employed to be experiencing financial distress resulting in the inability to pay rent, to maintain mortgage payments, and at risk to provide for basic needs;

WHEREAS Clackamas County has lost 32% of its licensed childcare programs during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, closures of childcare facilities have further limited the ability of workers to return to the workplace; and

WHEREAS the number of workers in Clackamas County's labor force has fallen by nearly 11,000 since June of 2020 (as of October 2020);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of over 2,750 Oregonians and caused the hospitalization of 11,640 more stressing our County's health care facilities and health care workers; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccine is available and everyone has a choice to take the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, many Oregonians may not have access to vaccines because of racial, economic or geographic disparities, underlying conditions, or because of vaccine hesitancy; and

WHEREAS, the vaccine rate will never be 100% and businesses requiring vaccines could be a barrier for access to employment especially for marginalized communities, those with underlying conditions and who claim religious exemptions; and

WHEREAS, business impacts have included lost revenue as well as accumulated costs specific to pandemic response; and

WHEREAS, workforce shortages are making it challenging for businesses to hire staff, further impeding recovery; and

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WHEREAS, in response, Clackamas County has provided assistance to businesses, including creating the Who's Open website to encourage connectivity between businesses and customers during the pandemic, complimentary PPE for businesses, grants to small businesses, including childcare providers, zoning waivers for temporary modifications to support physical distancing, a Community College scholarship program providing funds to create six Business Recovery Centers across the County and a small business legal clinic; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County did not receive direct federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars and did not receive equal amount of CARES support from the state, which impeded Clackamas County from supporting businesses at the level of neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, businesses are still struggling and needs continue to exceed available aid; and

WHEREAS, businesses are integral to the well-being and economic security of our communities and the State of Oregon.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the need to position not only the County but the State as an attractive and competitive place for businesses to thrive;
2. State government is encouraged to ease restrictions imposed on all Oregonians and to adopt workable masking and vaccination requirements to relieve our already stressed local businesses from assuming yet another enforcement obligation;
3. State government is encouraged to discourage businesses and schools from requiring vaccine for employment or to attend schools;
4. State government is encouraged to open daycares, schools, camps, recreational activities and other outlets to full capacity to allow our children to engage with each other and provide working parents alternatives they need to return to the workforce and their on-site employment;
5. State government is encouraged to employ other available resources to return our workforce to gainful employment through training and development to meet the changing business circumstances post COVID-19;

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- 6. The Board of Commissioners resolves to continue exploration of federal and state funds to use in efforts to support business recovery and community resilience;
- 7. The Board of Commissioners supports the development of business resilience recovery planning in partnership with the State and other local governments to help businesses succeed, which should include strategies for assisting business recovery such as financial assistance, grant programs, childcare option expansion, workforce development, and other tools.
- 8. The Board of Commissioners calls on the State to dedicate additional funds and resources to support the development and implementation of a plan as described above to ensure a positive future and forward direction for our businesses and community members.

DATED this ___ day of ___ 2021.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary