

Regular Meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
9:30 am

Public Comment is Agenda Item #6 (should start around 9:45am)

The meeting agenda is attached for your review.

To address the Board in public comment, please review the Public Comment Instructions below, then access the teleconference at <https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94761940886>. You may also call into the meeting by smartphone at 1(669)219-2599, meeting ID 94761940886# (participant ID not required)

****Logging on from a computer is the preferred method****

You will be required to identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and **will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak – so please be sure the name showing on your Zoom account is showing YOUR NAME (i.e., not your business’s name)**

Public Comment Instructions

Members of the Public may provide public comments at this meeting as follows:

- Spoken public comments will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Board, click on the link above for the appropriate meeting to access the Zoom-based meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully.

1. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting in-browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
2. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. The Clerk requests that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
3. When the Board President calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on “raise hand.” The Clerk will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak. (Call in attendees press *9 to request to speak, and *6 to unmute when prompted.)
4. When called to speak, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted

You can expect to have only one minute to speak. The Clerk will cut off your audio at the end of one minute.

Business Owners should:

- Introduce themselves
- Name of business
- How long they have been in business,
- How many employees they have
- What they want from the county
- Being brief and to the point is best.

Employees should:

- Introduce themselves
- Where they work or worked
- How long did they work there
- How you have been impacted

Here are sample talking points...the key is to be authentic and heartfelt in the words you choose to use. If one of the talking points below speaks to you, make it your own and use it.

- **We are dying.** The problem is acute, deep, and getting worse with every day. Can't feed the kids, can't pay the rent, can't serve the public.
- **We'll do our part if given the chance.** We are prepared to follow the rules but aren't given the chance (nor the clarity). Worse, we open (and do all the buying, hiring, and prep necessary) and then are told to close. Loss of money and loss of hope. Identify goals without moving the target
- **Is anyone really listening?** We hear a lot of talk but the only action is STAY CLOSED or operate outdoors. Neither are viable, long-term solutions. We want to work with you but need to be at the table.
- **If we can't reopen – how will we survive?** What other support mechanisms can the County provide? We're broke and understaffed. We can't get loans, we can't get grants.
- **Time is now.** We can't wait weeks let alone months. We need a clear understanding of the path...one that does not keep changing
- **Entrepreneurs Understand Risk Management.** Give us the guidelines to reopen safely and trust us to manage the risks to keep the livelihoods of ourselves and our employees going. Communicate clearly what business and other can do to reopen safely.
- The stress we are feeling is not just financial. The emotional toll of not knowing is causing us to lose hope.
- Unfortunately, we know that COVID-19 is going to be with us for a very long time, even once we find a vaccine, so keeping significant parts of our economy shut down is not a solution.
- We are calling on Santa Clara County to take a proactive leadership role to demonstrate pathways to safely reopening the economy.

- We need to find ways to mitigate risk and safely live with the virus – keeping the economy shut down is not a solution.
- We can accomplish this by setting high standards for health and safety protocols that limit the transmission of COVID-19 – and allow small businesses to operate and employees to get back to work.
- The state and county have two different goal posts for safely reopening our economy and our small businesses are caught in the crosshairs – suffering as a result.
- The economic problem is acute, deep, and getting worse with every day.
- At minimum, the County must clearly communicate how we can find solutions to safely reopen, using an evidenced-based approach to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Santa Clara County must prioritize saving our small businesses by steering more financial resources to help them stay afloat, especially when they are being forced to remain shut down.
- Without any local action and an immediate pathway to safely reopening, our small businesses and low-income families simply won't survive this crisis – increasing poverty and the demands upon the County and State for increased social services.
- Hundreds and thousands of small businesses and restaurants that are being left behind ever since the COVID-19 shelter-in-place began over 6 months ago.
- Without any local action and an immediate pathway to safely reopening, our small businesses and low-income families simply won't survive this crisis – increasing poverty and the demands upon the County and State for increased social services.