



4646 Dakota Street SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

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April 24, 2020

Office of Governor Tim Walz  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Suite 130  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for the Opening of Businesses in Prior Lake

Dear Governor Walz:

On behalf of the City of Prior Lake, thank you for all you have done to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior Lake is a community that understands the importance of staying at home and adhering to the social distancing guidance. During this time, our residents are doing so while also supporting local restaurants and businesses by making purchases online and ordering food to go. Despite these efforts our small businesses are all suffering greatly.

The owners of these businesses are our neighbors. Their personal and financial investment in our community is significant. It is in large part because of them, that Prior Lake has become known as a community with *a small town feel that is a wonderful place to live work and play for a lifetime*. The difficulty they are enduring is felt by all of us in our community of extended family members.

We respectfully request that small businesses, under self-imposed regulation, be allowed to open as soon as possible. Our business owners have come together and are committed to taking the steps necessary to open their doors in a way that is safe and in compliance with social distancing guidelines. This includes implementing and enforcing the following operating procedures:

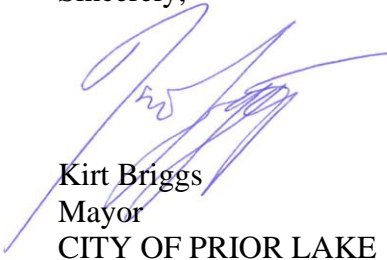
- Creation of a "Safe Shop Zone" and *code-of-conduct* for all indoor spaces
- Limitation to the number of individuals in each shop - depending on the square footage
- Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers at the entry of each shop
- Rotate the fitting rooms between each customer and sanitize them after each use
- Maintain social distancing at all times, including check out
- Sanitize the customers card before handing it back to them
- Mask mandatory/face covering zone for each customer, shop owner and employees
- Posting that high-risk people need to remain sheltered at home
- Posting the guidelines for the "Safe Shop Zone" on every shop's website, social media and entry of each shop

- Making sure that every shop maintains uniformity, so the public feels safe when entering any one of the shops


By taking these steps we believe our businesses can open and operate in a safe and controlled manor. Please consider allowing our businesses to open prior to May 4<sup>th</sup>. It is critical for our business owners and the economic viability of our community.

On behalf of our businesses, and our community, thank you for your consideration of this request.

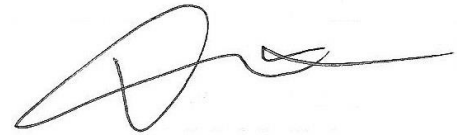
Sincerely,




Kirt Briggs  
Mayor  
CITY OF PRIOR LAKE



Annette Thompson  
Councilmember  
CITY OF PRIOR LAKE



Kevin Burkart  
Councilmember  
CITY OF PRIOR LAKE



Zach Braid  
Councilmember  
CITY OF PRIOR LAKE

cc: Prior Lake Economic Development Authority  
Representative Tony Albright  
Senator Eric Pratt  
Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf  
Scott County Commissioner Dave Beer