

Dear Madame Mayor and Esteemed Commissioners,

My name is Captain Damon Santelli I have been a full-time charter fishing guide for 15 years as well as a commercial fisherman for over 20 years. I have held two leases at Historic Charter Boat Row for 16 years now, and counting. I have never missed, or even been late on a lease payment since the day I started 16 years ago. I understand the problems you face balancing a budget for the entire city but these times are unprecedented and I can only hope that you can find a way to help us hard working fisherman financially.

I would like for you to please consider a three month abatement for the months of April, May, and June. Not only were we shut down to no fault of our own during our busiest time of the year, I personally was misinformed multiple times by City staff at Charter Row. During the shutdown, I was told "I was not allowed to take any charters, even for locals that live in The Keys".

During the closure, the few times we took our boats out fishing just to try and stay somewhat sane, we gave away a lot of our catch away for free to locals needing help during the crisis. We ask the city offer that same help to us, the tenants of Charter Boat Row. Surviving as a fisherman is hard enough with the constant battles we face against the federal and state governments managing our fisheries. Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Captain Damon Santelli