

Lissette Carey

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Lissette Carey
Subject: FW: KW Bight rent abatement letter from Michael Cash Key West Artworks

Please add to the agenda and read into the record.

From: Michael Cash <mike@kwardworks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Fw: KW Bight rent abatement letter from Michael Cash Key West Artworks

Thankx Cheri

From: Michael Cash <mike@kwardworks.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:31 PM
To: SKAUFMAN@CITYOFKEYWEST-FL.GOV <SKAUFMAN@CITYOFKEYWEST-FL.GOV>
Subject: Fw: KW Bight rent abatement

Good evening,

My name is Michael Cash from Key West Artworks, 201 William ST #106. A 12 year Bight tenant.

At KWA, our retail store is a tourism only income source, I'll put a high number that 10% of our business is from Locals.

To open without Foreigners, Hi Way 1 open to all traffic, a full ferry to operate, cruise ships to dock and flights allowed to land, I see a very difficult road ahead to continue to operate. To be closed during the high season and reopening somewhere short of the low season is a recipe for disaster to KWA.

Small retail stores like KWA and other large retail chains are declaring bankruptcy daily.

The economic condition of this country is worsening.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Dade and Broward counties is very bad, these counties contribute a large portion of summer business revenues.

Are people really lined up waiting to visit Key West?

In the short window of time that other states have reopened, Businesses are reporting a minor uptick in sales.

Key West has always seemed to be effected differently than other tourist hot spots in times of crises.

COVID-19 is a different beast, it has a negative effect on all 50 states and the remainder of the world. People are afraid to leave their homes, let alone travel. Asking the question will it be safe for visitors and employees?

When people travel, I believe they will not be spending like pre COVID-19. Not only the State of Florida's unemployment mess will contribute to this, but many other states problems will also contribute to numerous families staying put.

I doubt KWA can survive with 2 to 3 months abatement, let alone deferral over 24 months when leading economist are stating an 18 to 24 month recovery time.

Our rent needs to be abated from March 1st until all the tourist carrying entities are seeing 75% of pre COVID numbers to break even along with a rent decrease at that time.

A one time shot in the arm from the Federal PPP program (which KWA has not received) would not solve this financial problem, only help out our employees.

It will only be a matter of time before I am forced to close KWA.

I hope you will consider rent abatement and throw the deferral option as far out the window as possible so it is never brought up again.

The City shut the Bight down. It is draconian to ask for the rent from a closed store of no fault of mine.

The City of Key West has options to use the State and Federal resource avenues to recoup COVID-19 losses.

Please consider my request with open minds as if this was your small retail store.

Thank You for your time

Michael Cash

Key West Artworks