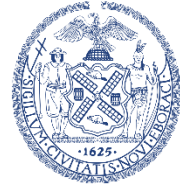


Helping Our Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19
March 19, 2020

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER **KEITH POWERS**



Dear Neighbor:

Over the next several weeks, COVID-19 will impact our city's economy as scores of establishments are already feeling the hit. Now is the time to save those businesses.

[Read my call to action in today's *New York Post*: New York state needs to throw our bars and restaurants an urgent lifeline](#)

In my op-ed, I call for three immediate action items:

- Postpone or eliminate the sales tax for businesses due tomorrow, March 20. A tax holiday would help businesses cover immediate expenses.
- Repeal or modify the Commercial Rent Tax that impacts Manhattan businesses, particularly those hit hardest by the loss of tourism.
- It is also a time to be creative. Workers must be able to support themselves: with the assistance of the federal government, the city should help those that are out of work with one-time grants. This should be targeted first and foremost to those who have been forced to be unemployed.

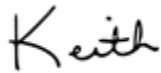
Today, I joined City Council Speaker Corey Johnson in announcing a robust proposal that helps provide a lifeline to businesses. The proposal expands eligibility for unemployment, covers fixed costs for businesses, institutes a grants program, delays the upcoming sales tax period, and more. You can read details [here](#).

How You Can Help:

- Support neighborhood businesses by ordering delivery or takeout
- Buy a gift card for businesses that are impacted
- Encourage local businesses to visit the Small Business Services (SBS) [website](#) for assistance

My office is monitoring volunteer opportunities for organizations who need support. While we encourage you to exercise an abundance of caution, [Citymeals on Wheels](#), [God's Love We Deliver](#), and other [emergency food organizations](#) have informed my office that they are looking for assistance. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to my office at kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

Please stay safe and e-mail my office if you need anything. We are here to help

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Keith

For further updates, please reference the following resources from various agencies:

- [News from the Mayor's Office](#)
- [Department of Health](#), includes multiple guidance documents
- [Department of Education](#)
- [Small Business Services](#), includes financial aid program information
- [Office of Emergency Management](#)
- Text COVID to 692-692 for updates from Notify NYC. For Spanish speakers, text COVIDESP to 692-692.