



RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 24

CITY OF RATON, NEW MEXICO

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE "RATON STRONG" ACTION PLAN for
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus that began to spread in the United States in January 2020; and

WHEREAS, a strategy of social distancing has generally been implemented to stop or slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus when face-to-face contact is limited to decrease the spread of illness among people in community settings; and

WHEREAS, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses, including retail stores, requiring all nonessential workers in the state to work remotely from March 24 to April 10. New Mexicans were also instructed to keep group gatherings to five people or less, to stay at home, and to maintain social distancing spacing of six feet away from others for those who must go out; and

WHEREAS, health clinics, grocers, pharmacies, child care facilities and businesses supporting food production and medical manufacturing and similar businesses have been deemed essential, and have been able to stay open during the period of restrictions; and

WHEREAS, adjacent states have implemented similar orders regarding closure of non-essential businesses, social distancing and stay at home orders during this period; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham extended the public health emergency order through May 15, 2020 and has announced a plan to reopen the New Mexico economy in several phases that includes reopening of some non-

essential businesses operating in compliance with COVID safe practices (CSPs);
and

WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham has established an Economic Recovery Council to develop CSPs to define how businesses will protect employees and customers and has invited local governments to submit location specific local "Action Plans" to reflect differences in communities throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the City of Raton has developed a local Action Plan that reflects the proposed actions of the States of Texas and Colorado, the status of the Raton business community, including small retail businesses that are essential to the community's economic well-being, and testing results that demonstrate that all locally performed tests for the virus have been negative for the virus currently and no Raton community spread has been indicated to-date; and

WHEREAS, Raton is a rural community with limited community spread potential, sensible policy makers, established medical facilities, professional emergency responders, knowledge of effective CSP's, and a dedicated local economic development structure; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Raton that the City of Raton, New Mexico adopts the "Raton Strong" Action Plan for Community Economic Recovery that consists of a tiered approach to community economic stability and vitality including opening some non-essential businesses operating in compliance with COVID safe practices in conformance with the Governors guidelines. The Raton City Commission hereby establishes the Raton Task Force consisting of an appointed representative of City staff, Emergency Medical Services, economic development, MCMC staff and two local business owner/ operators for formulation of recommendations to the City Commission regarding a tiered balanced approach to public health protection and community economic stability.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL 2020.

CITY OF RATON

ATTEST:

James Neil Segotta, Jr. - Mayor

Michael Anne Antonucci - City Clerk

RATON STRONG ACTION PLAN
for
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RECOVERY

April 28, 2020

GENERAL:

The COVID19 crisis has resulted in strategies to limit spread including social distancing, staying at home and closure of non-essential businesses and facilities. These measures have been in place since adoption of Public Health Emergency Orders on March 19, 2020 and March 23, 2020 by the New Mexico Department of Health. This followed the declaration of a Public Health Emergency through Executive Order 2020-004 in New Mexico on March 11, 2020.

Since implementation of these measures, the Raton community has complied with the prescribed measures and numerous businesses in Raton have remained closed. Business closure and restriction has resulted in concern for the future viability of numerous businesses in the community and resultant impacts to job opportunities, economic stability and funding of public services.

The Raton Mayor and City Manager participated in a telephone conference with New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham on April 21, 2020, in which the Governor stated that the public health emergency order would be extended until May 15, 2020 and discussed a plan to reopen the New Mexico economy in several phases that includes reopening of some non-essential businesses operating in compliance with COVID safe practices (CSPs). The City of Raton has prepared this Action Plan for Community Economic Recovery in recognition that Raton conditions are unique among New Mexico communities in regard to COVID19 exposure and risk, and economic circumstances.

The City of Raton proposes a tiered approach to re-open the Raton economy. The City of Raton also proposes the implementation of a local Task Force that includes contributing members representative of City staff, Emergency Medical Services, economic development, MCMC staff and two local business owner/ operators for formulation of recommendations to the City Commission regarding a tiered balanced approach to public health protection and community economic stability. The City of Raton will assign Emergency Response staff to consult with businesses and inspect facilities in order to achieve compliance with community transmission reductions.

PHASE 1 OF ACTION PLAN:

The initial phase of the "Raton Strong" Action Plan consists of the May 1, 2020 opening of some local businesses as described as follows:

Retail Stores

Office supplies, equipment and machinery;
Vehicles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, vehicle and equipment rental, and related services and parts.
Furniture, furnishings and appliances;
Professional offices including those in the practice of engineering, surveying, and architecture;
Pawn and antique shops;
Gift, novelty and souvenir stores, artisan and specialty shops, and art retailers;
Apparel, clothing, shoe and boot retailers;
Outdoor sports and equipment retailers;
Landscaping, reclamation and yard improvement businesses;
Jewelers;
Electronics retailers;
Appliance repair;
Thrift stores;
Welding, fabrication and machine shops;
Cosmetic and beauty supply;
Dog grooming and similar pet services.

Operation of businesses shall be subject to the following conditions and protections required for business operation:

1. No more than 3 customers in store simultaneously for facilities smaller than 10,000 square feet. 1 customer for each 2000 square feet shall be maximum capacity for facilities larger than 10,000 square feet. At capacity, customers will be allowed in on a "1-out-1-in" basis.
2. Customers and employees shall maintain mask or face covering suitable for limiting transmission probability.
3. Customers and staff shall maintain 6-foot distancing when feasible, or separation by a wall or effective barrier.
4. Businesses shall make hand sanitizer available, make aisles one-way and use shields at checkout.

Other Businesses may open under additional conditions as described:

1. Barbershops, beauty salons, stylists and similar personal services - these businesses can serve customers by appointment only; walk-in services are not permitted. Further, these businesses can only allow one customer in the establishment at a time. Both the barber/salon staff and the customer must wear face coverings.
After each customer, the barber/salon must clean and disinfect the area where services were performed per guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. Car washes – these businesses can operate with cleaning and disinfecting all pay stations, spray wands, vacuum handles and frequently used equipment throughout the hours of operation.
3. Golf Course – the course can operate with groups limited to 4 persons in a group and groups well distributed throughout the course. Buildings shall remain closed to the public with the exception of an operations desk working as retail businesses described above. Golf course must limit golf cart usage; remove rakes and ball washers and prohibiting golfers from touching the flagsticks.

SUBSEQUENT PHASES OF ACTION PLAN:

Businesses, Organizations and Facilities that risk congregation of larger groups of people and increased potential for community spread of the COVID19 shall operate strictly under the terms of current Executive Orders and Public Health Emergency Orders as may be amended from time to time, including orders for closure or restricted operation. These businesses, organizations and facilities include (but are not limited to) Motels, Hotels, RV parks, and other places of lodging; Bars, Restaurants, Gyms, Fitness Facilities, Yoga and Dance Studios, Theaters and Churches.

Outdoor recreation is a critical component to Raton's local economy and is anticipated to progressively re-open based upon evidence based management measures, along with businesses, organizations and facilities discussed above.

Nothing in this plan is intended to apply to currently operating essential businesses or alter current operation methods. All operating businesses, facilities, customers, public officials and members of the public are encouraged to remain familiar with the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition to continued social distancing and PPE measures, the public is advised of increased importance of sanitary measures including disinfection of surfaces where contact is likely.