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May 25, 2020

**Chair Kathryn Barger and Honorable Members
of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**RE: Support for “Safer at Work and Safer in our Communities” Motion by
Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn to Allow Cities to Pursue
Variance from Public Health Orders**

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

Thank you for your ongoing support and continued efforts on behalf of our communities. We understand the tough choices every elected leader has to make during this unprecedented time.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, I am writing to support the “Safer at Work and Safer in our Communities” motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn to allow cities within LA County to pursue variances from the Public Health Orders, which is agendaed for the May 26, 2020, County Board of Supervisors meeting.

On May 20, 2020, the City of Manhattan Beach wrote to Supervisor Hahn requesting immediate action to eliminate retail curbside-only restrictions and allow Manhattan Beach retail businesses to fully open under State and County guidelines. That same day, Supervisor Hahn responded and proposed a plan to allow retail businesses to reopen with safety protocols, and asked Governor Newsom to level the playing field for “non-essential” and “essential” retail businesses.

In accordance with this previous request, the City of Manhattan Beach would like to continue on the path of economic recovery and reopen our local economy by pursuing a variance from the Public Health Orders. The City recognizes that the entire region of Los Angeles County is grappling with similar economic concerns and the County must balance those with addressing our collective public health. However, the City recognizes that the Coronavirus will continue to exist for the foreseeable year. As a region, we must learn to live with the virus and manage it by taking the appropriate safety measures to minimize the risk of transmission, while also allowing businesses that meet State and County health protocols to reopen to assist

MANHATTAN BEACH CITY HALL

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with our economic recovery.

Additionally, while we take pride in being Los Angeles County residents, we recognize that the County covers over 4,000 square miles, is made up of vast urban and rural communities, broken up across seven valleys, several coastal regions and multiple urban centers. COVID-19 is impacting each city in our County differently.

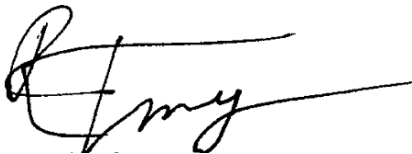
The rate of infection in Manhattan Beach remains very low. Since Public Health began tracking COVID-19 cases, the City has only 76 positive confirmations. In context, this means Manhattan Beach has less than one quarter of one percent of all positive cases in Los Angeles County. More recently, the number of new daily positive cases has dramatically decreased in Manhattan Beach. Since the beginning of May, the City is averaging an increase of 0.4 cases, while LA County is averaging 937 cases per day.

Manhattan Beach falls under the South Region of LA County EMS reporting area for hospital availability. Over the past two weeks, the South Region hospitals have had an average of 245 beds available for surge and also maintained an average of 45 ICU beds over the past 14 days. The South Bay can accommodate a minimum surge of 35% due to COVID-19 patients within the existing infrastructure. In addition, hospital facilities have robust plans to protect hospital workers, both clinical and non-clinical with PPE, while simultaneously maintaining plans to grow surge capacity, if needed.

Therefore, the City of Manhattan Beach firmly supports the “Safer at Work and Safer in our Communities” motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn, and respectfully urges the Board of Supervisors to approve the same. The City of Manhattan Beach has a strong interest in a City variance and looks forward to submitting a request to the County so our local economy can begin to reopen.

I thank you and express the City Council’s appreciation for your efforts on placing this motion before the County Board of Supervisors. Should you have any questions or would like follow-up information on this matter, please contact our City Manager, Bruce Moe at bmoe@citymb.info or 310-802-5053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Montgomery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Montgomery
Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach

CC: Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
Honorable State Senator Ben Allen
Honorable State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi
Manhattan Beach City Council
Mayors, South Bay Cities