



# CITY OF COMMERCE

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Date: May 19, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor,  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA E-mail: [ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov](mailto:ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov)

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Commerce thanks you for your leadership and efforts to protect and support Californians during this unprecedented public health crisis. Cities remain on the front line helping residents stay safe and in their homes, delivering emergency services, and supporting local businesses and community organizations. However, as emergency costs continue to grow, city revenues to fund local services are plummeting. COVID-19 is having devastating impacts on city budgets and services statewide.

Based on the League of California Cities analysis, California cities are projecting a nearly \$7 billion general revenue shortfall over the next two fiscal years. This shortfall will grow by billions of dollars if stay-at-home orders to protect public health extend into the summer months and beyond.

The City of Commerce projects that these shortfalls will impact our core city services, including police, fire service, emergency management, and services to the most vulnerable including youth and seniors, and we anticipate the possibility of lay-offs after having already implemented furloughs, which will further impact core city services for residents, as well as the employees.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Commerce has stepped up to protect and serve our community. We have distributed food and supplies such as masks to our community. We have partnered with a local health care provider to offer COVID-19 tests to our community. We have conducted City programs virtually in order to keep our community active and engaged. The necessary measures our city has taken are

costly. In order to continue to be a full partner with the state in saving lives, protecting our communities, and ultimately recovering from this crisis, we need your help.

City of Commerce has joined the Support Local Recovery coalition and we are calling on you to immediately support the following actions:

- Provide \$7 billion in direct and flexible state funding to support critical local services and allocate CARES Act funding for all cities for COVID-19-related expenditures.
- Advocate to secure \$500 billion in direct and flexible funding from the federal government for all cities nationwide to support critical local services.

The City of Commerce appreciates your consideration of our requests and look forward to further discussing in the coming days how together we can continue to best protect Californians and reopen our economy. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Ivan Altamirano  
Mayor  
City of Commerce

Cc: Bismarck Obando, League of California Cities,  
SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org