

May 18, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Commerce, California – like the State and the rest of the world – is responding to the COVID-19 epidemic to the best of our ability. Thank you for your leadership during these extraordinary times and for the impact you have made in California and across the nation. As you are well aware, circumstances are changing by the hour and we appreciate your communication efforts to help Californians understand what the State is doing to combat the spread of COVID-19.

As California moves to safely re-opening the state, I implore you to consider allowing the re-opening of the *Commerce Casino* and all area card clubs where the local city has deemed it safe to do so. The *Commerce Casino's* response to the COVID-19 epidemic was swift and responsible. The well being of their employees and guests is their number one priority, which is why they have worked with health care professionals to develop a Health and Sanitation Program that outlines guidelines for employees and guests to follow in order to comply with state policies and with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Consistent with the factors your office and the state are carefully reviewing in California's Recovery Roadmap to reopening various private sectors, the attached Health and Sanitation Program thoughtfully and comprehensively considers how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact at the *Commerce Casino*, including, but not limited to, reducing transmission among employees and customers/public; maintain healthy business operations, and maintain a healthy work environment.

The Health and Sanitation Program has been submitted to the Los Angeles County Public Health (LACPH) department for review and approval.

On behalf of the City of Commerce residential and business community, including 8,000 hard-working Los Angeles county cardroom employees, I again respectfully urge you to consider authorizing the re-opening of the *Commerce Casino* in accordance to the Health and Sanitation Program guidelines attached herein.

According to the Los Angeles Times, *"The governor said he understands that partial reopening of casinos is crucial to tribes raising government revenue to take care of their communities."* Please know that the same holds true for Cities like Commerce, Bell Gardens, Hawaiian Gardens and many others in California. Like several like cities, City of Commerce greatly relies on revenues from the Commerce Casino in order to staff our youth programs, feed our seniors and ensure that public safety needs are met for all citizens.

Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request that will allow our City to provide the essential and quality of life programs and services our residents need, now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Ivan Altamirano
Mayor, City of Commerce