



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley  
United States House of Representatives  
1108 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for the Saving Our Street Act (Harris & Pressley)**

Dear Sen. Harris and Rep. Pressley:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of the Saving Our Street Act (Harris & Pressley). Small businesses and non-profit organizations across the country face extreme challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to some estimates, half of small businesses across the country—the backbone of our economy—will not survive the crisis. This important legislation offers critical support to the micro-businesses and community non-profits that need it the most.

While federal COVID-19 relief legislation has provided unprecedented economic stimulus through more than \$650 billion to the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), many businesses have not been able to secure these loans. Underbanked businesses throughout Long Beach continue to have limited access to PPP loans serviced through private lenders. A recent Long Beach small business survey found that just six percent of small businesses applied for and received a PPP loan, and of those that applied, 54 percent were not approved or have not received funds. Furthermore, 62 percent of Long Beach small businesses report that sales have dropped by more than half, and 28 percent are closed altogether with no revenue coming in. Without additional federal resources, the livelihood of our small businesses hangs in the balance.

Long Beach has a thriving small business community. The City has played a leadership role in terms of educating small business owners about emergency resources, such as grants, loans, and technical assistance. The City also provides three distinct loan programs for businesses, including an Emergency Microloan Program in partnership with the Economic Development Administration. During the COVID-19 crisis, the City has provided 71 emergency loans at \$10,000 each for businesses with five or fewer employees. Yet, this is not nearly enough to address the needs of minority- and women-owned businesses that are inordinately impacted by the crisis.

The City supports legislation that promotes economic inclusion and increases investment in low-income and historically underrepresented communities. The Saving Our Street Act would provide much-needed capital for community businesses and non-profit organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports the Saving Our Street Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44<sup>th</sup> District

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