

From: George Kotarides gkotarides@yahoo.com 

Subject: TAP Fund, restaurants and our beach

Date: April 22, 2020 at 7:59 PM

To: bob dyer bdyer@vbgov.com, Amanda F. Barnes abarnes@vbgov.com, City Council citycouncil@vbgov.com, City of Virginia Beach Mayors Office mayorsoffice@vbgov.com

GK

Honorable Mayor and Members of Virginia Beach City Council:

I'm sorry I missed the budget hearing. Please know I greatly appreciate the enormous challenges you face, and my thoughts and prayers are with you as you make some of the most important decisions in the history of our city.

I'm writing this letter not only as president of the Atlantic Avenue Association but also as a resort restaurant owner.

Simply put. If we don't go back to work very soon there will literally be nothing left to go back to.

As of this writing, nationally, full service restaurant revenues are down 83.6% and 44.1% are closed. I'm sure Virginia Beach is not much different. The resort and Atlantic Avenue is a wasteland.

I agree with Mr. Lyons and others who spoke at the hearing. City leadership needs to find a way to double the TAP fund. We need to be aggressive. We need to be bold. We need to fight. If we don't invest boldly in tourism at this critical time, we will fall behind other competing destinations who you can be assured will be investing many millions, and we will not just fall behind, we will be destroyed.

But none of this matters if people can't eat in dining rooms and we don't get our beach back very soon. Honorable Mayor and members of City Council, tell the Governor to lift restrictions on full service restaurants and open our beaches!

Thank you, and united we stand.



*Helping To Build
A Great Community*

George Kotarides

President, Atlantic Avenue Association

757-469-0031



