

From: [Shawn Gruver](#)
To: [Suja Lowenthal](#); [City Council](#); [Ann Yang](#); [City Clerk](#); [Eduardo Sarmiento](#)
Subject: July 1, 2020 - Emergency Order Measure [Resident Response]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:54:01 AM

Dear City Council and City Manager,

My name is Shawn Gruver and I am writing to you as a 17 year resident of Hermosa Beach to express my strong disagreement with the entire emergency order that you are discussing this afternoon on July 1, 2020.

I moved to this great little beach city because of the charm and life it has that one can see throughout the residents and businesses. For the past 17 years, I have lived within a stone's throw of the downtown district. With the proximity to the bars and restaurants, comes the daily and nightly noise but I have not minded it. It has made me feel like our little city is alive, even with the random person yelling at 2am to their friends while staggering home after a long night at the bars. When the pandemic hit, and all businesses were forced to shut down, I found this new silence amazing. I could have my windows open all night without an issue and enjoyed extremely quiet nights at home. But after a few weeks, that novelty wore off, and it felt like our city had died, albeit temporarily. More importantly, I knew that if we didn't get our little city back to its feet (at least partially) that "life" and "noise" would never come back. So when the phased reopenings happened, although it brought back the loud mufflers and yelling at 2am, it was nice to see that life again in Hermosa.

In terms of forcing restaurants and business to close at 10pm, and all the other rules that the city is trying to impose, these make no sense unless you are trying to once and for all destroy all businesses and the way of life in Hermosa. All these businesses just paid hundreds of dollars in fees and spent tens of thousands of dollars in investment to expand patios and make their establishments safe to comply with new restrictions. More importantly, they are already working at severely reduced revenue rates and are barely staying afloat. By cutting even a few hours of their key income-producing periods, or implementing more extreme measures of crowd control, these steps could all be the final death nail for many of our beloved local spots. Because our local restaurants and business will be forced to close down the landlords will move quickly to rent their space to any tenant so as not to continue to hemorrhage their own money. If all local "Mom and Pop" businesses do not survive, future ones will not even dare start and the landlords will lease to anybody willing to pay. Who might this be you ask? Large commercial businesses. Think Applebee's, Olive Garden, KFC, Pizza Hut, Sizzler, CPK, etc... NOT Standing Room, Hennessys, Sharkeez, Palmilla, Dia Del Campo, etc. These smaller restaurants, bars and businesses are the lifeblood of our city and make our little city what it is, and if we lose them, Hermosa will be changed forever into a corporate chain back business district. Think Santa Monica 3rd Street for example.

I would also like you to think of all the employees that you are hurting by potentially forcing these businesses to close. These employees have families and children. The ripple effect will be tremendous if we lose these businesses. I completely understand (and thank you) that you all are trying to keep the city (and all of us) safe but unless you close businesses all together indefinitely, this virus will continue to spread until there is a vaccine. It is inevitable and I do not want to get into a medical debate because none of us are doctors. But a vaccine is many months if not a year or more away. No business can survive even a few more months at a further reduced capacity. That being said, if you have a compromised immune system or do

not feel comfortable for one reason or another (for example, my wife and I are much more careful due to her pregnancy), then you one can choose not to visit an establishment, but the city should not punish the businesses and all their employees and their families. Let the individual patrons make that decision. If they don't feel it is safe, they will not visit the establishment. Don't tell us or mandate what we should do or are allowed to do.

I would also like you to remember the last time Hermosa tried to "go corporate" many years ago that ended up almost bankrupting our city with the whole E&B Natural Resources disaster. If we don't protect our most valuable resource, our local businesses and restaurants, Hermosa Beach WILL lose its charm.

As far as closing the beach, the strand, and removing the volleyball netting, even though I am not a medical doctor, from a common-sense standpoint, this also makes zero sense. I think the scientific community (and the general public) is all in agreement that this virus spreads significantly quicker inside, where people are closer together and there is no air circulation. If that is the case, why would you want to potentially force people to congregate together inside by closing their public beach and strand outdoor alternative? As discussed earlier, my wife is pregnant and the safest place for her to be is on the beach, not inside a friend's house or in their backyard. Furthermore, why do you want the people that play volleyball to find an alternative, potentially less safe, and more confined location to gather, instead of being outside and getting exercise while having the wind disperse any potential transmission? Since we are all social creatures, we will find alternatives to gathering around a volleyball court, which will most likely end up in closer quarters inside a business, residence, or in another area that is not as well ventilated where the spread of COVID and other diseases happens quicker.

In closing, I hope that the Council Members and City Manager will take this information to heart and not destroy this city that I have come to love and have called home for 17 years. We are all struggling during this time. A great stress reliever and mental break from this crazy world is for each of us to enjoy our favorite activity throughout our little beach town. Whether that entails is going to our favorite Mom & Pop restaurant, riding our bike on the strand, dipping our toes into the ocean, walking down to the end of the pier or even playing a little volleyball with friends, that is what makes life bearable during this difficult time that we are all going through. Please don't make life worse for your citizens by destroying the little bit of hope, freedom, and enjoyment that we have left.

Thank you for your time,

Shawn

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Shawn Gruver