

**From:** [Mary Ann Bender](#)  
**To:** [Pavlicek, Cara](#); [Grossman, Tammie](#); [VOP Board](#); [Trustee Andrews](#); [Trustee Boutet](#); [Trustee Taglia](#); [Trustee Walker-Peddakotla](#); [Trustee Moroney](#); [Trustee Buchanan](#); [Clerk Scaman](#); [Mayor Anan](#)  
**Cc:** [Liz Holt](#); [Sam Yousif](#); [Lynn Palmgren](#); [Bob Stelletello](#)  
**Subject:** Immediate action requested-Business Recovery Task Force  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 11:44:57 AM

---

Mayor Abu-Taleb, Oak Park Trustees, Clerk Scaman, Cara Pavlicek, and Tammie Grossman-

Good Afternoon. I am very thankful that the Village of Oak Park has put public health and the safety of our citizens first during this pandemic.

I am writing on behalf of the OPRF Chamber of Commerce to ask for your immediate assistance in the formation of a Business Recovery Task Force for the Village of Oak Park. It has come to my attention that the Village of River Forest and City of Berwyn have already created task forces for their business communities. In fact, the Village of River Forest task force has met, created a plan, is developing videos to promote their small businesses this week, has supplied re-opening packets to their businesses, and has been calling or meeting with their businesses regularly.

Liz Holt and I have connected with you repeatedly via Zoom, phone calls, and emails over the last 5 weeks to discuss small business issues and concerns. Therefore, it is extremely concerning that our surrounding villages are taking a more proactive position on the future of their small businesses. While I am very thankful that Mayor Abu-Taleb instructed the OPEDC to help create education on financial assistance programs available to businesses, that is NOT enough.

The Chamber has furloughed or laid off most of our staff, and we only have Liz Holt and one other part-time staff member to manage Chamber members, outreach, networking, and all other Chamber businesses. We want to be part of the team on a Village Recovery Task Force, but we cannot lead this team or organize it. Since the Village funds two full time staff members at the OPEDC and has staff members at Village Hall who support the business community, I am asking you to assign the OPEDC or Village staff to create this task force this week.

We are getting multiple emails per day about the serious concerns that our small businesses have during this pandemic. Today, a non-member dentist's wife reached out to me because he cannot open (even for emergencies) due to inability to get PPE that he needs. Last Friday, I had to separate businesses tell me that they think they will be forced to close down due to the pandemic.

Please create this task force this week. Please help our business community.

I have copied OPRF Chamber Board members who are on our Board Business Recovery Team and Liz Holt on this email. I can be reached on my cell phone anytime- 708-837-2540.

Kindest Regards,

Dr. Mary Ann Bender  
Podiatrist, Mary Ann Bender, DPM, Ltd.

President, OPRF Chamber of Commerce



6931 W. North, Oak Park, IL 60302

708-763-0580, [oakparkpodiatry.com](http://oakparkpodiatry.com)

DISCLAIMER: This communication, along with any documents, files or attachments, is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain legally privileged and confidential information which is protected by HIPPA. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of any information contained in or attached to this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy the original communication and its attachments without reading, printing or saving in any manner.