

## Pavlicek, Cara

---

**From:** Pavlicek, Cara  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:51 PM  
**Cc:** Charley, Mike; Grossman, Tammie; Stephanides, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: Small Business Task Force Plans to Help Restaurants?

Hi Susan (w/Board bcc),

Thank you for the email. For clarification, staff did not receive Trustee Boutet's email. Thank you for sharing it as there is misinformation that is important to correct.

At the BAC call on Wednesday, October 28, Director Charley stated *Chicago* was announcing fines up to \$10,000 and Director Charley and I affirmed that Oak Park would not be taking that approach.

The Village's Public Health Department and the other Village staff supporting Public Health are focused on education. We are responding to complaints and working with the business community to ensure they understand. Enforcement is only required, which can include a 24 closure of a business, when education does not work. The Village is also aware that Illinois State Police are enforcing the State orders as well.

I will add your request for discussion of this.

Thank you, Cara

Cara Pavlicek  
Village Manager  
Village of Oak Park  
123 Madison Street  
Oak Park, IL 60302-4272  
W: 708-358-5770  
[cpavlicek@oak-park.us](mailto:cpavlicek@oak-park.us)  
[www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us)

---

**From:** Trustee Buchanan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:17 PM  
**To:** VOP Board; Pavlicek, Cara  
**Cc:** Mary Ann Bender  
**Subject:** Re: Small Business Task Force Plans to Help Restaurants?

Cara,

I am seconding Simone's request that the issue of village support for the business community be placed on an upcoming agenda. I would like to hear from the Small business task force and from the Business Advisory Council as well as from the Chamber of Commerce on ways the village can help our small businesses weather the pandemic.

Susan Buchanan

On Nov 1, 2020, at 9:04 PM, Trustee Boutet <TrusteeBoutet@oak-park.us> wrote:

Hi Mary Anne

Thank you for your inquiry. One or two trustees can not make a difference without the support of the full board, so I have included everyone in my response to your correspondence.

Last week, I reached out to Liz to check in with the business community and discuss what the Village can do. She invited me to participate in the "Business Advisory Council" (BAC) call the next day and I did so.

Mike Charley indicated that the spike in cases is mostly among young people between the ages of 12 and 30 who are largely symptom free. Restaurants and bars are specifically targeted for closure because young people are going out, getting COVID and spreading it. The closures are directed at them. Places like George's, Delia's Kitchen, Cozy Corner and the like are taking measures to be safe and are not catering to the "young and the restless." So, in my opinion, a more nuanced approach is warranted.

On the BAC call, our staff indicated that they would be enforcing the Governor's closure order first with a warning, then with a citation with potential fines of up to \$10,000. I have, and I indicated, a general disagreement with imposing heavy fines on struggling businesses, but I am only one trustee. Formal direction to staff needs to come from the full board.

[As a process matter, I learned that the businesses who formed the BAC welcome the participation of elected officials. However, we don't get affirmatively invited, so I was the only one on the call.]

I am trusting that Deno and the other electeds would disagree with imposing heavy fines on businesses that are trying to survive. We need to direct our staff to take a softer approach to enforcement. Some communities are using a voluntary compliance approach or not enforcing closure orders at all. This needs to be discussed by the board.

By copying the board, I am opening it up to a second to discuss this. I am also eager to hear from the businesses as to any other ideas to help them survive this crisis. I expect that to happen on the call Deno indicated he would schedule this week.

Thank you for reaching out.

Simone

On Nov 1, 2020, at 7:54 PM, Mary Ann Bender  
<[drbender@oakparkpodiatry.com](mailto:drbender@oakparkpodiatry.com)> wrote:

Good Evening Deno and Simone- I hope you both had a great Halloween weekend. What is the status of the Oak Park Small

Business Task Force? Will you be scheduling a meeting for early this week to address the immediate and urgent issue of no indoor dining in restaurants? This, along with the construction on Lake Street, may lead to permanent closure of several of our local restaurants very soon.

Additionally, what is the Village of Oak Park able to do to encourage staying local...meaning shopping, dining, and using local OAK PARK services? I just watched a video with the Orland Park Mayor speaking to his local businesses and outlining his plans to encourage dining local. In the video, he also questions why restaurants cannot have indoor dining when there is not data to support that this business sector has increased COVID cases in suburban Cook County. Finally, what type of message can we expect from our elected officials to finally, as a **united team**, encourage our residents to CHOOSE COMMUNITY and support all of our local businesses?

Thank you for your prompt response and an update on what is planned.

Kindest Regards,

Dr. Mary Ann Bender  
Podiatrist, Weil Foot and Ankle Institute  
President, OPRF Chamber of Commerce





Weil Foot and Ankle Institute  
610 S. Maple, #2550, Oak Park, IL 60304  
847-390-7666  
[mbender@weil4feet.com](mailto:mbender@weil4feet.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.