

From: Todd Letts
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Mayor & Brampton City Councillors

March 24, 2020

Mayor Brown, Finance Committee Chair Vicente and Members of Council
City of Brampton
c/o Peter Fay, City Clerk
for: March 25, 2020 Special Council Meeting: Delegation in Writing

Status Update Request: Brampton Board of Trade Recommendations to City Council for economic response to global pandemic

Good afternoon Your Worship and Members of Council,

Thank you and Council for your quick action on the Brampton Board of Trade's recommendation for property tax deferral in response to the impact of the global pandemic.

Our office has been in touch with the City's Treasurer and understand that the City of Brampton's property tax payment deadline is now extended to August 19th. This is an important first step in aiding families during this difficult time and aiding business liquidity so that Brampton enterprises can remain viable. Thank you for that.

As an update, business owners continue to confide in the Brampton Board of Trade that continuity of business operations is a serious concern. The business community has willingly joined the fight to combat COVID-19, even though it has meant significant declines in business revenue due to mandated restrictions to their operations. Timing of payments is very important to business survival. That is why we are writing today.

Respectfully, we ask for an update on behalf of the business community. We strongly encourage Council to act on the remaining recommendations proposed by the Brampton Board of Trade in our March 18th email (below), specifically Recommendation #3 – accelerating payments owed to the private sector and non-profit enterprises.

By way of immediate status update:

1. Has Council instructed the Treasurer to accelerate payments owed?
2. Will the City's treasury accelerate payments to 14 days from invoice, as opposed to longer payment delays?
3. Has City administration established protocols to measure and monitor payments for the next six months to ensure accelerated payments as we work through these extraordinary conditions together?

I understand that City Council meets tomorrow. Please respond to me at your earliest convenience the status of accelerated payments and of the remaining recommendations, so that I can communicate to the business community the strong tangible action City Council is taking to support businesses during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Todd Letts



Todd Letts | Chief Executive Officer

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From: Todd Letts

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:02 AM

To: Mayor & Brampton City Councillors

Subject: Thank you for the invitation re: local economic response to global pandemic

Importance: High

Mayor Brown, Regional Councillors Palleschi and Vicente, and Clare:

I have received your invite to participate in a discussion on economic recovery. Thank you for reaching out to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on our local business community. You can count on the Brampton Board of Trade to fully participate in the proposed Economic Support and Recovery Task Force.

The situation is serious. Businesses have taken many steps to combat the spread of COVID-19 and as a result, for many, business continuity is at risk. In response to operating restrictions that are hurting businesses, Brampton business people have clearly articulated, to the Brampton Board of Trade, actions from local – and all governments - that would help them to continue operating. The Board of Trade is in contact with regional health officials at William Osler Health Service, Peel Public Health and all levels of government as the situation develops.

Local employers are concerned not only with the continued viability of their businesses but also the health and livelihoods of their employees and families. As you know, members of the Brampton Board of Trade employ more than 45,000 in our community. Since its onset, to assist local companies with business continuity, a COVID19 resource page was created and is updated daily at bramptonbot.com/covid19

In response to feedback we have received from local employers, the Brampton Board of Trade offers these initial thoughts on tangible action local governments can take.

What Tangible Action Can Local Governments Take To Ensure Business Continuity In Response to Global Pandemic?

1. **City/Region Finance:** Extend property tax deadline for both individuals and businesses to both assist with short-term liquidity and allow residents to focus on dealing with the pandemic
2. **City/Region Finance:** Offer flexibility on payments. Consider eliminating interest penalties for tax and service fees.
3. **City/Region Finance:** Accelerate government payments owed to private sector and non-profit vendors
4. **City Economic Development:** Help impacted businesses of all sizes access credit and capital swiftly (bank/federal/provincial) to pay furloughed employees and finance remote work options. While not all businesses have the capability of introducing remote working, those that do may be faced with considerable costs. Assisting businesses to transform in this way may actually provide significant long-term advantages for local companies, in addition to the immediate benefits

5. **City/Region Council:** For a minimum of three months, postpone government consultations that are not germane to COVID-19
6. **City/Region:** Reduce regulations or waive requirements, unnecessary requirements for at least three months, so that business can focus on safety and business recovery.
7. **City/Region:** Place a moratorium on the introduction of new regulations and policies to avoid forcing businesses to divert their attention from dealing with the crisis at hand
8. **Council/Planning:** Task planning to accelerate development proposals. Monitor and expedite against specific standards. Job-creation, and fast, is an important recovery initiative
9. **Alectra/Region of Peel:** Consider flexibility in payments for utility bills for a minimum of three months.
10. **Advocate to senior-level governments:** for further economic stimulus; reducing inter-provincial trade barriers; allowing swift return of temporary foreign workers and expediting labour mobility.

I look forward to further discussing tangible actions with you.

Sincerely,
Todd Letts



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