



## *Office of the Town Council*

Mayor Jason Gray  
Mayor Pro Tem Jason Bower  
Councilmember Jess Loban  
Councilmember James Townsend  
Councilmember Kevin Bracken  
Councilmember Caryn Johnson  
Councilmember George Teal

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May 20, 2020

Governor Jared Polis  
State Capitol Building  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 136,  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

On behalf of the Town of Castle Rock – including Mayor Pro Tem Jason Bower and Councilmembers Jess Loban, James Townsend, Kevin Bracken, Caryn Johnson and George Teal – I am expressing the urgent need to safely reopen our local businesses as soon as possible.

We shared in our April 28 letter to you that most of our local businesses were either closed, or restricted to greatly reduced operations, and suffering associated losses in revenue. Since that time, some of our businesses have been able to operate at a limited scale. However, they continue to suffer significant financial losses. Restaurants and gyms in particular must have fewer restrictions to be economically viable and operationally stable.

Current COVID-19 case data from the Tri-County Health Department shows that the present level of restrictions is no longer necessary within Castle Rock and Douglas County. Collectively, we have submitted multiple variance requests that are as of yet unanswered by the State. It's important that we, as elected leaders, provide our local businesses every opportunity for success, and our residents with the freedom of choice to act as they believe is in their best interest.

We request that you allow Castle Rock's businesses to reopen while self-managing the safety protocols they deem best for their employees and customers, with input and guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. While guidance is essential, the decisions on whether and how to re-engage in business should ultimately lie with our local business owners and their customers. Those who do not feel safe conducting business in person are welcome to continue staying at home. The time has now come to trust our citizens to do the right thing – that includes allowing businesses to re-open with the minimum of necessary health requirements.

Our community is growing increasingly frustrated with their inability to conduct business in the manner they believe most fit for their families. We have urged those who contact us to continue following State guidance while we work on their behalf to follow protocols and attempt to gain variances. Douglas County was named last year by U.S. News & World Report the healthiest county in America; we should be given adequate consideration for our ability to decide what is right for our community with regard to business openings at the local level. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JE" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mayor Jason Gray  
Town of Castle Rock