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June 4, 2020

Dear Fairfax County Business Owner,

I want to thank you again for all that you have done to make Fairfax County a great place to live and work. The Fairfax County community is great because of investments like yours. We are three months into this pandemic, and I understand your business may be struggling. I do not take lightly the financial struggles that many are experiencing, nor the devastating impacts this virus has on health. It is a difficult tightrope to be sure everyone's needs are being met. I am glad we were able to safely move into Phase 1 based on health data and hopefully because of our mitigation efforts, the Governor will be able to continue reopening businesses and our economy.

As you know, our Board established a \$2.5 million COVID-19 Recovery Microloan Fund last month. The Fund received over 1,700 applications for loans within a three-day period. We quickly realized the pool we provided was not enough and I asked County staff to explore what options we can further provide.

In recognition of this need, I am proud to announce the Board authorized the establishment of a \$25 million grant program called the Fairfax Relief Initiative to Support Employers (Fairfax RISE). To reiterate, Fairfax RISE is *grant* program, thus participation does not require repayment of the capital received. This approach aims to provide immediate support to small businesses and non-profits impacted by required closures and interruptions caused by COVID-19. Applications will be open from June 8 through June 15.

In addition, a third of the grant's funding will be specifically available to organizations that are historically less likely to be approved for financing. These businesses and non-profits are women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned business that employ 80,000 people in Fairfax County.

For those who applied to the Microloan Fund, there are a couple of points I wish to note. First, the applications cannot be transferred, however the Department of Economic Initiatives should have notified those who applied for a microloan about the application process. Second, applications rejected from the microloan program were primarily because of the limitations of funding pool. This will not impact your application to the grant program.

Learn more about the grant application process and sign-up for our notifications here:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/economic-success/fairfaxrise>

Finally, do not hesitate to share with me the specific challenges you are facing by emailing me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. It was the voices of the business community that helped us to better meet your needs through this new program.

Thank you for your resilience and for your patience as we continue to navigate this challenging and rapidly evolving situation, and for your continued contribution to our community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman