

## Mayor's Call with Smyrna Businesses – Recap and Additional Information

Mayor Norton held a conference call with Smyrna businesses Tuesday morning, May 26<sup>th</sup>, to provide an update about possible grant funds for Smyrna businesses from Cobb County, as well as additional help for employees of Smyrna businesses available through the Support Smyrna Program. All businesses in Smyrna were invited to participate on the call. The Mayor wanted to make sure Smyrna business owners were aware of the vote this afternoon and prepared to apply for these funds if the proposal is approved today.

Here are the highlights:

### Grant Funds for Cobb County Businesses

- Today, Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Cobb County Commission will vote on a proposal to provide \$50 million in grant funds to Cobb County businesses, which would come from the \$132 million that the county received through the CARES Act.
- If approved, businesses with less than 100 employees who have “headquarters, regional office, central office, or primary office” in Cobb County AND who have not received federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans or assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) would be eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- This proposal has been heavily supported by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, and applications will be reviewed by a committee established by the Cobb Chamber and the Cobb County Commission.
- The City of Smyrna will post any and all information available about these grant funds, once approved, on our website and social media outlets. Bookmark and check for updates at <https://www.smyrnaga.gov/your-government/small-business-emergency-assistance> and on City of Smyrna social media.

### Support Smyrna – Assistance Extended to Employees of Smyrna Businesses

- The Support Smyrna Program, which was established as a way for Smyrna citizens to help those in need in our community and provides assistance in the form of \$100 grocery store gift cards, is extending assistance to employees of Smyrna businesses.
- Mayor Norton asked business owners to identify employees or former employees who are experiencing hardship during this health crisis and help connect our staff to those individuals. Penny Mocerri is the point person for Support Smyrna and will assist with the application process and distribution of grocery store gift cards. Email the program at [SupportSmyrna@smyrnaga.gov](mailto:SupportSmyrna@smyrnaga.gov).

### Other Items

- The City of Smyrna is working with businesses to help get through these tough times – deferring water and sewer and business license fees, suspending the temporary sign permit fees to enable businesses to advertise at their property that they are open, encouraging commercial landlords to work with businesses on rental payment plans, and promoting and asking citizens to support local businesses.

- Questions or comments from businesses should be directed to Landon O'Neal at [loneal@smyrnaga.gov](mailto:loneal@smyrnaga.gov).