



2545 W. Diversey Avenue
Suite 225
Chicago, IL 60647
(773) 929-5552

Mayor Lori Lightfoot
121 N LaSalle St
4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

June 12, 2020

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

On behalf of North Branch Works and the North Branch business community, I would like to thank you for your steady leadership during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate the data-driven approach you have brought to determining when and how to cautiously reopen. It is important for businesses to follow established regulations and protocols so that the disease does not spread as we reopen.

As Chicago progresses in the Phase 3 Cautious Reopening, we have been keeping the businesses we represent informed as to city regulations & guidelines, webinars, and other resources to help keep their staff and customers safe as they open to the public. One group of businesses has been omitted from this gradual reopening: bars and more specifically taprooms. These businesses have brought vibrancy to neighborhoods throughout Chicago and helped cement our status as home to more breweries than any other city in the United States. Indeed, breweries, regardless of whether they are bars or taverns, are located in all seven wards our organization serves.

Taprooms are an essential aspect of breweries, allowing customers to try different products and help drive demand and boost their business. Whether a brewery is large or small, taprooms play an important role in raising awareness of their brand, contributing to the economic strength of our neighborhoods, and in growing their wholesale business. Whether or not a bar serves food should not be the deciding factor as to whether it can reopen. If a bar has no current violations or citations, can effectively enforce the same social distancing requirements as restaurants, and has proven itself to be good neighbor to the community, there is no data-driven reason to deny it the opportunity to reopen.

We would appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to begin the process of opening these important members of the community. Please let me know if you are open to that discussion, and we will work with our office to schedule a virtual meeting.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Snyder
Executive Director

cc: Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar
BACP Commissioner Rosa Escareno
Ald. Brian Hopkins, 2nd Ward
Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward
Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
Ald. Rossana Rodriguez, 33rd Ward
Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, 35th Ward
Ald. Michele Smith, 43rd Ward
Ald. Matt Martin, 47th Ward