Good afternoon,

I apologize for the lateness of these comments. I have been so busy that as I see what's going on in my area during my lunch break, I'm alarmed that there's even a consideration to go onto Phase II.

As a faithful employee of Lincoln County, yes, this has put hardships on me as well as my coworkers. Of course I want to have everyone here in the office, but you cannot put a price on health. The recent uptick in confirmed COVID-19 cases have shown that many people are still ill, still getting ill, and I don't think it's appropriate for our County to apply for Phase II at this time.

You're going to hear a lot of testimony from people that own rentals advocating for us to reopen. Well, without doing a lot of research and analysis, I can still probably say that they don't live here year-round and don't care what happens to the livelihood of the residents; they just want their money.

I have recently bought a home in Lincoln City, and I was appalled to see traffic on 101 resemble water going through a faucet last weekend. More recently on Wednesday, none of the "protestors" across the street were 6 feet apart. That was a veritable smorgasbord of germs and contact.

Regardless, thank you for accepting my public testimony, and please, do not choose to apply for Phase II. We simply are not ready.

Josh Bacher
County Commissioners,

Our county needs to reopen. Our increase in cases is mostly tied to two traceable outbreaks and not to tourism or our businesses being open, or even to people not wearing face coverings. We MUST remember the entire point of the shutdown was to not overwhelm our hospitals, NOT to eradicate this virus. We have had 1 hospitalization (not even in one of our hospitals I believe). The governors office has publicly changed this goal by announcing Phase 2 will last until we have a vaccine or a cure. This is an indefinite violation of our liberties in the name of a potentially impossible goal.

I believe it is possible, and you should consider, that you are not equally receiving public comment from all concerned constituents. The fearful are much more likely to have more time on their hands to influence you all in that direction. Us business owners are drowning trying to keep up with all the constant changes while still managing our already full lives of running our businesses, many of which are requiring twice as much work for 1/4 the revenue. You have a duty to make science and fact based decisions that take care of our community. We are not dying from this virus right now, but people are dying from this lockdown, people are taking their own lives having lost their livelihoods, and the rest of us are in an indescribable constant state of stress and not knowing if we will loose everything.

Rather than debating mandating face coverings, and continuing to treat us like adult children, I suggest you reach out to local doctors and urgent care facilities and ask them when they believe this virus first hit the coast. You will find MANY who believe it was here as far back as Sept or Oct. This would explain our low case numbers and low community spread much more than this economy shutdown has. We need antibody tests; we can’t live the rest of our lives acting like we are sick. At some point people have to decide how much risk to take in life - the government doesn’t get to take over forever. Our community is not more vulnerable than the rest of our state. Tourists are not more likely to have this virus than a local. These are all speculations. I beg you to operate under facts.

The 10pm curfew for dine-in has still never been explained. Now with it moving to midnight under phase 2 for the indefinite future, are we really expected to blindly comply to this arbitrary, derogatory rule? Am I expected to just be grateful to be permitted to operate my business? I think not.

Under Phase 1 my business is still down 75% because of the restrictions on my open hours, pool tables and karaoke - NOT because of social distancing or sanitation guidelines. I will not be able to rehire or reopen my second business until we reach Phase 2, and even then closing at midnight cuts away 40% of my business - so I may not be rehiring at all. This is unacceptable and NOT related to public health. There have been no cases tied to dine-in service I can find, anywhere. This IS NOT based on science or evidence of any kind. What are you doing for Lincoln County’s food service industry? Are you even aware of what the state is doing to us? Have you advocated for us at all? I would appreciate an answer to these questions.

Please do not allow the abundance of fear and misinformation in our community to allow you to continue to make damaging decisions for the rest of us, you know, the ones that create jobs.

Please feel free to contact me if you care about helping our local restaurants. By the way, mandating masks will only hurt us more. Please don’t forget about us, we are still bleeding out.

Thank you,
Marci Baker, Owner
Marci’s Bar & Bistro
Zest Creperie
5419211423
Why are you even considering going into phase 2 and 3 when the number of cases is rising on a daily basis? Since it seems people are not smart enough or willing enough to follow the now well known guidelines to protect themselves and others it seems extremely irresponsible to open the door to an influx of tourists. It seems extremely irresponsible to open bars, of all places, where it's almost impossible to observe social distancing. When a human being has a few drinks many times they're inhibitions are cast to the wind. Do you really think they will be as careful as they should be?

We're careful, we stay home other than a neighborhood walk (with masks at the ready) and a necessary trip to the market (masks on in the store). Many people will not wear a mask and because it is not a law that a mask be worn so no one can do anything about it. Stop the insanity and stop jeopardizing our health and lives more than is already being done.

We are in our late 70's and doing our best to stay healthy and protect ourselves and others. There are lots of people in Lincoln City and County just like us. Quit worshipping the almighty dollar and do your jobs. If you mandate the wearing of masks, then be able to enforce it please. Please slow down the re-opening until the new cases are not on the rise!

Brook and Leoda Barr
2336 N.W. Keel Ave.
Lincoln City, OR 97367
leodaj@hotmail.com
As a business owner in our community I strongly encourage the reopening of our local economy into Phase 2. I’m not a health care professional and therefore will try not to comment on the virus itself and the risk it brings to our community. I do understand that there have been a slight increase in cases. I use the word slight because although the number of cases have doubled in a 5-day period, the number of confirmed cases remains relatively low for a County of our size. I’m a strong believer in trusting professionals in their given fields of expertise and based on the information I’ve read the transmissibility and voraciousness of this virus is something that we should all take very seriously. Our community has made a great sacrifice over the last few months and I do believe, with the exception of a few outliers, we can be trusted to conform to a new normal and open safely. Social distancing, hand washing and other preventative measures are encouraged in the Governors orders and guidelines for reopening and I believe the vast majority of people will comply with those guidelines. For those that are vulnerable and at a high-risk of serious subsequent illness resulting from SARS-COV-2, we need to, as a community, focus on providing opportunities for them to continue to shelter and limit their exposure. I hope there are opportunities for the county and municipalities to assist those high-risk individuals and allow them to limit their potential contact points as much as possible. I believe we have all learned, unfortunately, that SARS-COV-2 will be a virus that we will be dealing with for some time. We have successfully slowed the spread but the shut down can not continue without further loss of local small businesses.

I ask you, County Commissioners, Mayors, City Councilors, and City Managers to trust that people’s mindsets have changed. That goes for people living in our communities as well as those who will hopefully visit our communities over the coming critical summer months that we are now in. Please remember the importance of our small businesses and the importance of tourism to the success of our County. Local businesses need tourism to survive. Please end the local restrictions and allow Lincoln County to move forward with our Governor’s guidance for reopening our County into Phase 2 as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Dustin Capri

Dustin J. Capri, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP ND
Architect

Capri Architecture, LLC
p. 541.961.0503
w. www.capriarchitecture.com
a. 747 SW 13th Street, Newport, OR 97365
Good morning Commissioners,

I see that you are meeting this afternoon to discuss the Phase II application for Lincoln County.

As you discuss this matter I would please urge you to consider what the 24 hour hold on hotels **REALLY** does. It essentially cuts the available occupancy down to **33.3%** in many instances.

For example – a guest rents Wednesday night. Tuesday and Thursday night can no longer be occupied.

**67 % restriction is more than on any other business.**

This means 67% drop in revenue – **less staff members back at work & less lodging tax income for our cities**

If it is about waiting for the virus to be “not alive” – hotel rooms are visited by 1-4 people only……stores, restaurants, etc. are open to 1000’s in a day. Yet they are NOT expected to close for 24 hours between days……they are expected to clean appropriately. Hotel should be treated the same.

New York City – the worst hit area in the US – **does not** have this requirement. Hospitals who have actively sick COVID-19 patients – **don’t have** a 24 hour hold on rooms between occupants. The CDC **is not** recommending it. The Governor **is not** recommending it. The OHA **is not** recommending it. OSHA **is not** recommending it. **All that should be required is proper PPE & cleaning chemicals** – which is already required.

The tourists coming to the cities in Lincoln County – **don’t** all have COVID-19. Yes some may – which is why we have social distancing, signage, hand sanitizer, masks, etc. My understanding is the recent uptick in cases – were not from tourists. “community spread” – Lincoln County residents are going to Costco, etc. …..who’s to say one of these cases didn’t come from exposure that way?
I think if the County continues this restriction against the hotels you are opening yourself up to potential lawsuits???? Tillamook County has already had a lawsuit filed by a hotel owner – with the big question: If hotels should have been closed…..why didn’t the Governor close them by her order like all the other business? If the Governor specifically left lodging out – why? Is this a “taking of property”? I don’t know the answer to these questions ……..

There appears to be no reason for the 24 hour hold (no state/federal agency recommendations) and good reasons to remove it: more people back to work, lodging tax revenue for the cities, less potential lawsuits. This 24 hour hold could easily turn into a class action type suit with every hotel owner in the county involved.

If you strongly believe in it and the science behind keeping it (although I can’t find any science to support a 24 hr hold when proper PPE & cleaning chemicals are used) – you may need to be ready to defend it legally as there is millions of dollars at stake here.

I love Lincoln County – lived here since 1988 / raised my children here/ my parents are retired here – so thought it would be prudent to share what’s brewing behind the scenes so Lincoln County can consider these thoughts and hopefully avoid any unnecessary issues.

So even if the Lincoln County doesn’t choose to move forward to Phase 2 – I would urge you to at least remove the 24 hour hold as of today on hotel rooms and vacation rental homes – you have the authority to do this.

Sincerely,

Dianna Dunlap

Lincoln City Resident since 1988
Claire, Doug and Kaety-

(I would also personally address Kaety and Doug if I had your addresses.)

Absolutely not. The way our cases are rising in this county in the last week makes it clear. Too dangerous.

Do I have an amazingly strong drive to get in the pool? Absolutely.

Is it safe?

Absolutely not.

Thank you.

Bruce Fairman

p.s. Get that? Absolutely not.
Greetings commissioners,

As a resident of Lincoln City for the last 22 years, I have decided to make my voice known. I have been a business owner in this town, I have been a member of the Farmer's Market, I have been involved with the schools and with summer events for children at the LC Cultural Center. I do NOT feel that it is the time to apply for Phase 2 of the reopening during this pandemic. I feel that with the recent increase in numbers of infection in our community we need to wait and make sure that things are more under control before encouraging larger gatherings and lessening the current restrictions. While I applaud and am grateful to those that have been adhering to the current restrictions and recommendations, I feel there are far too many that have treated this situation with a blind disregard to their fellow community members. I recognize that it is my choice to continue to stay home to keep myself and my family and my community safe, as I have been doing since March, but I feel it is not wise to encourage others to go out and gather, loosening current restrictions. Please do not apply for the Phase 2 at this time, I implore that you reconsider doing so at a later date. Please wait and let's see if we can get the current outbreaks under control before creating a greater spread. I do understand that we will see more infections with more testing, but at this time we have over 49,900 community members and there has been 1629 tests given. This is such a small fraction of our community. I think until we have more testing we should act cautiously.

I have made over 700 masks for community members and wish to see it required to wear a face covering in public. I had hoped that people would be more willing to do so with out it becoming a requirement. I wish more people would see it not as an infringement of their rights and merely as a selfless act of keeping our community safe, but unfortunately there are too many selfish people out there. I understand masks are not easy to wear. They can be hot, somewhat cumbersome, and claustrophobic. I have asthma, but yet I wear a mask anytime I leave my house, which has been restricted to short walks around the neighborhood with my dogs. My family wears masks anytime they leave the house. I understand it is not to protect us, that is not why we wear the masks, it is to protect others. I have not been in stores since this whole pandemic, but I have spoken to friends and have heard of places that are not implementing the usage of masks with their employees. I have driven through town to just get out and have seen first hand businesses open with their owners and workers not donning face coverings as I was driving by. Businesses selling face to face to the public. The blatant disregard is not only a slap in the face, but very heartbreaking to see our community member's lack of compassion and respect for their fellow members.

I know that we have to move forward and move towards a normality of life we are accustomed to, but I feel we must do so in a state of cautious awareness, and with respect and compassion. Thank you,
Megan Gill
Dear Lincoln County Board of Commissioners:

I am General Counsel for Shilo Inns, and am submitting this comment on behalf of Shilo Inns and its owners Mark and Shannon Hemstreet. We do thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of and visitors to the State of Oregon, and Lincoln County in particular. Mr. Hemstreet started Shilo Inns in 1974, and has owned and operated hotels in Lincoln County for over 30 years, and is equally committed to the health, safety and welfare of his employees and guests.

However, it is important that Lincoln County adopt reasonable and consistent regulations regarding room hold requirements as it relates to COVID-19 issues. Currently, Lincoln County’s 24 hour requirement requires that hotels keep every room vacant for 24 hours before anyone is allowed to enter the room, regardless of whether guests are showing COVID-19 related symptoms. Such a restriction, while certainly well intentioned, goes beyond what is currently reasonable and necessary in Oregon, and is beyond the restrictions in any other area of Oregon. The hospitality industry has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the continuation of this restriction would further restrict hoteliers unnecessarily.

As a reasonable alternative, Shilo Inns suggest that Lincoln Count adopt the Oregon Health Authority recommendations which are attached hereto. The OHA “recommends hotels and motels not allow anyone to enter areas used by persons with COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours after the persons leave. Staff can then begin cleaning and disinfection.” In essence, the 24 hour hold logically only applies where occupants have displayed symptoms of COVID-19. Such a recommendation strikes a good balance between the protection of guests and employees, while also allowing the hotel to start to operate on a more normal and economically productive basis.

Please note that Shilo Inns follows the cleaning and sanitizing recommendations of AHLA, ORLA as well as all social distancing and PPE standards to ensure guest, staff, and public safety.

At your meeting today, we urge you to amend the current Lincoln County 24 hour hold requirement and adopt the OHA recommendations set forth above.
Thank you in advance for considering our request as we all strive to deal with COVID-19, and work together to protect the safety of our communities and stabilize and revitalize coastal business and jobs.

Sincerely,

Tom Gratton
General Counsel
Shilo Management Corporation
11707 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220

Phone: (503) 641-6565 | Fax: (503) 419-1750

tom.gratton@shiloinns.com | www.shiloinns.com

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED; DO NOT FORWARD WITHOUT PERMISSION

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You are not ready to do phase 2 reopening

1 message

Yvonne Hall <yvonnemodel@hotmail.com>
To: "boc@co.lincoln.or.us" <boc@co.lincoln.or.us>

Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 11:20 AM

PLEASE INCLUDE MY COMMENTS AT your MEETING AT 3:45 TODAY.

My name is Yvonne Hall and I live at 291 Ocean Wayside Lane in Yachats. I have been following the Covid 19 cases here in our county and pay attention to the testing rates. Our testing rates are very low. Last I was aware of it was 1% and it is not easy to go in and simply get a test. When I am seeing a spike in cases here we are up to 25 now when a week or so ago it was less than 10, this is something you need to take seriously. After we did phase 1, I am seeing an influx of people from out of the area. Many do not bother to wear masks in public. I am seeing too many people camping out in the turnouts along 101. Where are they urinating and defecating, the bushes nearby. This is unsanitary and should not be allowed. There have been many cases of community transmission of this virus and with the low testing rate you can be sure there are asymptomatic spreaders in our community. Too many people have the attitude that it is business as usual, an example of this is the "Covid" Family who decided to have a family gathering and infected each other.

It is impossible to get good information from the health department here about where these positive cases have been, what stores have they been in, what restaurants did they visit, etc. I don't want to know who they are and even their zip codes don't matter, but where they are possibly spreading virus is critical information that we as a community need to have. Based on what I am seeing here, this county is not ready for phase 2 reopening. You should not be pushing for that in the face of rising infections and poor testing rates and lack of readily available testing.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Hall
541 554-0576
I am writing you in regards to recent remarks reportedly made by members of your board and I simply would like some clarification. I am the general manager of the Ripley’s complex on the Newport bayfront. We, as a company, and I as an individual citizen of this county, have been very supportive of efforts made by this board and other elected officials…especially on the outset of spring break. I believe we, up until now, have experienced less covid-19 cases due to that diligence. Thank you.

However, I have some serious reservations at this time as we move forward. As a company we just invested over 7 million dollars into this county and have built a beautiful property which will benefit the Newport bayfront and in fact this entire county moving forward. It is confusing and to be honest quite degrading to hear commissioners say there is “no hurry” to move on to phase II. My confusion comes because a large reason why we are sliding back is due to increased visitors and traffic. All weekend and during the week for that matter I have 20-30 people constantly outside my property, roaming the bay front and gazing in the windows…why open up hotel rooms and other vacation rentals if it is only going to slow down an already slowwwww pace? Look at the increased traffic in Newport alone…it is oh so obvious. Have you tried a drive thru in Newport since phase 1 started? While this is wonderful for them and my wife is surely happy to be open, there seems to be a serious disconnect with the rest of the county.

It is time to make hard decisions; ok, harder decisions. I urge you to close this county back up (to outside populations) until we can qualify and justify full and complete phase II compliance or open it up…one or the other. It is neither just nor wise to pick and choose which of us suffer and which of us do not and to drag us along in a never ending series of change/no change is almost cruel. To allow Covid-19 carriers to move in and out of this county at will while continuing to regulate who can and can’t be open is not aggressive and positive leadership in my opinion and it does not take the immediate consideration of your constituents to heart. Hotels and other vacation rentals should be, at minimum, a phase II release in this county. Please make decisions and move in a direction that is best for this county as a whole and decisions that will move us quickly, safely and justly towards whatever the new normal will be.

Best Regards,

Dave
David Heater

General Manager

250 SW Bay Boulevard, Newport,
OR 97365-4535 USA

tel: 541 265 2206

cell: 541 961 3499

ripleys.com/newport

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Please think before you print. Save our trees.
Reopening county
1 message

kate.houston@gmail.com <kate.houston@gmail.com>  Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 1:02 PM
To: boc@co.lincoln.or.us

I am a resident of over 20 years here in Lincoln County. I do not feel we should reopen to Phase Two unless the wearing of face masks in public is required and enforced. My husband and I both have underlying health conditions and do not feel safe in the community where only some people wear masks. Thank you,
Kathleen Houston, Depoe Bay

Sent from my iPhone
Applying for Phase 2

Jay Kemble <jay.kemble@hospitalityassociates.com>  To: boc@co.lincoln.or.us, p.hawker@newportoregon.gov, citycouncil@newportoregon.gov

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 4:51 AM

Dear Lincoln County and Newport City Officials,

I want to strongly encourage you to please move forward with applying for Lincoln County to enter Phase 2 as soon as our county meets the established criteria to do so. The La Quinta Inn & Suites Newport has been in business for more than 20 years, and the economic impact currently being placed on us is without a doubt the most difficult one we have ever faced.

Our ability to survive economically next winter is completely dependent upon our ability to make and save money during the summer months. Your efforts to help, as well as your continued service to our community is greatly appreciated. Working together, we can make a difference and safely reopen for business.

Thank you,

Jay Kemble, CHA
Senior Vice President of Operations
Hospitality Associates
www.hospitalityassociates.com
Lincoln County Phase 2 Reopening
1 message

K R <kimandjames1996@gmail.com>
To: boc@co.lincoln.or.us

Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 1:46 PM

Commissioners,

Hello and Happy Friday! As you are about to discuss whether or not to apply for phase 2 reopening for the Lincoln County area, I would ask that you look heavily at the number of positive cases that have popped up over this past week. Realizing higher numbers were to be expected, it is still very alarming. If you decide to apply for phase 2 and move forward, what will happen if you see more cases? Will we then move back to phase 1? If so what is that indicator: amount of cases (double), not able to trace where the COVID came from? How would this look?

Is it possible to apply for phase 2 and roll it out slowly?

I am anxious as you are to get the county back up and running, but want to make sure we are doing this in a smart, methodical manner so we are not opening up the doors to more cases in our community.

Thank you so much for all you are doing. Thank you to this amazing community for working hard to reopen Lincoln County.

Kim R.
For what it is worth, I do not believe it is a good time for us to move into phase 2.

This is my personal opinion as a member of the public.

I know we are all interested in what is best for our community.

Hope this helps,

Nick
I would like to express my concern about applying for phase II for Lincoln County. I believe the spike in positive COVID-19 cases proves that we are not ready to open our county to the next phase. Please consider the increase in cases and when you make this difficult decision.

--
Felicia Lambie
SLC Teacher
Taft Elementary
felicia.lambie@lincoln.k12.or.us
541-996-2136
Google Voice 541-595-8161
My name is Torre Morgal. First of all, thank you for your continued concern regarding the health and welfare of our Lincoln County residents and visitors. I would also like to thank you for doing the work to help move Lincoln County into Phase 1 with the State of Oregon. I have owned and operated hotels in Oregon and Washington State for over 30 years, two of which are in Lincoln County - the Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites of Newport an Ascend Hotel Collection and the Best Western Plus Lincoln Sands Suites Oceanfront Suites of Lincoln City. My company, Lincoln Asset Management also owns and operates eight other hotels, six in Oregon and four in the state of Washington.

I am here to express my concern about the 24 hour room hold restriction where hotels must keep hotel rooms vacant for 24 hours between guests. Currently, only Lincoln County has this stipulation on transient lodging. I have been in contact with other hoteliers up and down the coast, including Astoria and Seaside, where I own three hotels. The conversations that I have had with health professionals, hoteliers and international brand leaders have all echoed the same sentiment. There is no need for this rule and no one else in Oregon is being held to this standard.

Hotels have been cleaning guest rooms with chemicals and processes that were put in place to sanitize and disinfect for decades. Our processes ensure a safe guest experience. As a matter of consistency I believe that Lincoln County would want to be in-line with the rest of the Oregon Coast. I would hope that restrictions be decided by local Health Department Professionals and not be based on well-meaning opinions or one’s own idea of what they think is common sense. As Oregon is ranked in 4th place for least amount of COVID-19 cases in the entire USA and Washington State ranks 25th. It would seem we are in a much better position and should have fewer restrictions overall. We have complied with the rules and regulations. We ask that this one and only stipulation be removed so we can operate much more efficiently for our staff, our guest and the many other local businesses that depend on tourism.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and thank you again for your continued concern for the health and wellbeing of everyone.

Torre T. Morgal CHA - President and CEO
Mission Statement: We strive to create an environment where all associates are valued and respected. We aspire to be an industry leader by proactively setting standards of excellence in acquisitions, development, ownership and management. Our growth is built on honest business practices, a strong commitment to our associates, and a dedication to providing well maintained hotels.
Dear Board of Commissioners,

I have been active in the hotel industry for over 25 years. My company represents ten hotels in Oregon and Washington, two of which are in Lincoln County. The Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites by Ascend Hotels and the Best Western Plus Lincoln Sands Oceanfront Suites.

Our cleaning protocols were designed to protect our guests from things like MRSA, hepatitis A & B, Influenza, etc. There is little evidence to support viral transmission of Covid-19 via hard/soft surfaces such as are found in a guest room.

We have respectfully complied with all the reopening requirements laid out by the county. However, the 24-hour room hold policy is creating a undue hardship on our hotels as the property management systems were not designed to do this type of function. We are having to manually manage this process and it is basically taking a full-time person dedicated to keep us in compliance. This 24-hour hold is also creating an atmosphere of fear within our staff as they interpret it as something in that room is harmful to them and to be feared. As Oregon is ranked in 4th place for least amount of COVID-19 cases in the entire USA, the likelihood of a room having the virus and that being transmitted is extremely unlikely.

No other counties in Oregon or Washington have required a 24 hour hold on guest rooms. We are respectfully requesting that the 24-hour room hold restriction be removed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Morgal CHA – HR Manager

nicolem@lamhotels.com
Mission Statement: We strive to create an environment where all associates are valued and respected. We aspire to be an industry leader by proactively setting standards of excellence in acquisitions, development, ownership and management. Our growth is built on honest business practices, a strong commitment to our associates, and a dedication to providing well maintained hotels.

"Relinquish your need for external approval. You alone are the judge of your self worth and your goal is to discover infinite worth in yourself, no matter what anyone else thinks." ~ Deepak Chopra
Fwd: Regarding lodging 24 hour holds

1 message

In Shin <bennyshin@comcast.net>
To: boc@co.lincoln.or.us
Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 1:58 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: In Shin <bennyshin@comcast.net>
Subject: Regarding lodging 24 hour holds
Date: June 5, 2020 at 11:33:45 AM PDT
To: danderson@lincolncity.org, mparsons@lincolncity.org, dhinton@lincolncity.org, rhoagland@lincolncity.org, dkusz@lincolncity.org, 
jcasper@lincolncity.org, rmark@lincolncity.org, kjacobson@co.lincoln.or.us, dhunt@co.lincoln.or.us, cehall@co.lincoln.or.us
Cc: cliberato@lincolncity.org

To Lincoln City council members and Lincoln County commissioners,

Hello, I’m the owner of the Sailor Jacks Motel. I’m writing regarding the lodging 24 hour hold that is in place for Lincoln City.

I’ll get to the point. I strongly urge the council members and commissioners to remove this 24 hour requirement for all lodging businesses in Lincoln City and Lincoln County.

- There are no other counties in Oregon and Washington that have such a requirement in place for lodging businesses.
- No computer reservation system is set up for making gaps in-between reservations. This requires our front desk staff to constantly monitor reservations to make room for 24 hour gaps, and to cancel reservations that cannot fit. Many canceled reservations are made to check in within 72 hours of being made, so this is frustrating tourists as well.
- In addition, the work from this monitoring is on top of increased phone call volume, traffic, occupancy, and new rules related to the pandemic is a great burden on our front desk staff who is limited to one clerk behind the counter at this time.
We understand that coronavirus, covid-19, and the pandemic are a real threat. We have been patiently waiting to re-open since March 23, and have been following Lincoln City and Lincoln County rules. Because of this 24 hour hold, we have laid off four employees. If this continues, we will be forced to let go of additional staff.

Finally, lodging business supports many other business in the town and county. We are writing to you at this very desperate time for help. Otherwise, we will probably not make it in the upcoming winter season. Please consider us and every other lodging business in the city and county when the council and board reconsiders the 24 hour hold.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Benny Shin
Owner
Sailor Jacks Motel
As a citizen of this County, I am opposed to the entering of Phase 2 and I personally oppose being in phase 1 with the increase in cases.

dianetrivett@yahoo.com

June 5, 2020
Thank you for your Facebook post alerting the community to today’s meeting.

The question I have is this:

Is important to know where the Lincoln county Covid cases are located. We are very spread out community. If the 20 cases are in Lincoln city that has a different meaning than if most of the cases are in Eddyville or Waldport or even Toledo. As I am sure all of you can understand, if all 20 cases were in the small town of Eddyville, it would be time to not only shut down but isolate that community. Please, every time you notify the county as to Covid, include the total of course but also include the breakdown of where the cases are located.

Thank you,
Lisa Voelker

Sent from my iPhone
Thank you for your informative update posted in The News Guard today. Gordon wrote a letter to the editor that appears in this issue as well. I hope you can take the time to read about how some ignored the safety of our residential citizens by continuing to rent their VRDs, when emergency rules forbade it. When concerned neighbors called the city’s enforcement team, they were the ones ignored. It appears common sense is no longer common.

According to the website that reports Covid 19 activity, https://ncov2019.live/?fbclid=IwAR3o4AuPzQMVn8SeOhNJwPMBSbkmJQ5fDNK2_aVZXTc3Q1oL1PFykPHpEIA today shows an increase of 17,002 confirmed cases in the USA. Washington had an increase of 271 cases (1.17%), California had an increase of 834 cases (0.71%) and Oregon has an increase of 64 cases (1.48%). This pandemic is far from slowing down and states and countries that have “reopened” are showing more increased cases than those that are not.

The attachment is a scan of a letter to the editor by a Seaside, OR resident which appeared in the Oregonian on Sunday. It is also regarding enforcement of rules put in place for hotels, motels and B&B’s but not VRDs. The author of this attachment asks we contact our local officials and demand their health and safety protection laws be enforced equally. We agree and are asking for your help.

Warmly,

Gordon & Susan Walker
Voters in Lincoln City
Vacation rentals need health checks

Local authorities are failing to ensure that vacation rentals comply with the basic health standards required of all public lodging. These standards exist to protect visitors, our workers and our communities. This lack of enforcement represents an unnecessary danger to public health and safety.

The Oregon Health Authority is the exclusive state regulatory body that sets public health standards and regulates travel accommodations. It is the only agency mandated and authorized to license, administer and enforce health regulations and statutes for all lodging. As required by law, every hotel, motel and B&B is licensed and inspected annually by local public health officials to ensure they meet these laws.

In contrast, and unlike most lodging that operates in commercial zones, vacation rentals are located primarily in residential neighborhoods and are not being licensed or regulated by public health authorities. This is illegitimate, selective enforcement of the law. It also creates a significant shortfall in public health protections at a time when these protections are needed most. Until there is uniform public health licensing and oversight across all lodging providers, a gaping hole exits in our public health safety net. Contact your local officials and demand that health and safety protection laws be enforced equally.

Stephen Malkowski, Seaside
Dear Board of Commissioners,

My name is Mark Wendt. I'm the owner of the Comfort Inn & Suites in Lincoln City. First of all thank you for your continued concern regarding the health and welfare of our Lincoln City residents and visitors. I generally support your efforts in this regard however I would like to express concern over the 24 hour room hold on transient lodging that is currently in place. I would hope that restrictions like this be warranted as necessary by health department professionals and not be based on well meaning opinions or one’s own idea of what is common sense. I also own a hotel in Washington State where as you know the Covid problem was significantly worse than anywhere in Oregon. We are not subject to a 24 hour hold so long as hotels follow a prescribed cleaning process using disinfectants certified to be effective against Covid and other viruses. Thanks for you consideration in lifting the 24 hour hold for businesses willing to follow recommended disinfecting procedures.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Good Morning. I’m writing with my concerns for opening to Phase 2. I should mention my own person opinion- I think it’s too soon as it hasn’t been the 21 days. We should follow these timelines so that we have a better understanding as to what each phase’s impact will have on our community. I personally think 21 days should be the minimum. Especially considering all of our protestors and visitors. When visitors drive through from other states, cities and countries - we never see the whole picture or effects of those numbers as they take them home with them.

On the topic of masks: I think they should be required. I don’t think that is out of line to ask folks to protect our community while out in public. The Bayfront is packed every day. I see it as I drive through to get to our home. Yesterday I saw one elderly couple wearing masks. No one else.

As I wish we could take our little community and zip up a giant bubble to protect us from the outside I also know that’s not possible. I know we have to keep our economy going but we have to do it safely. Mental health is also a huge part of this and I think that returning to the offices both big and small should be an option if the employee can work from home productively and professionally. I know personally sending my husband back into a crowded county building every day has been weighing on us tremendously. Both for his safety and Mine. We understand not everyone is scared but feel our feelings are valid as we still don’t know much more about this virus from when we started. My husband sits in an office with people who drive in from both Corvallis and Philomath. We can’t control how people conduct themselves outside of work or their exposure. Nor do we think we should. However, we think it’s important that we control our own environment, safety and health. We ask you to please consider letting those who have been able to work at home have the option to continue to do so.
I’d also like to thank all of you for your continued transparency and leadership. I know this isn’t easy & We can’t fathom what you go through everyday but we are grateful to have you.
Please send our county's application in for Phase 2. As an RN, I understand we've had more cases lately than we did earlier, but increased testing and increased exposure accounts for that. The only hospitalization was in the very early days, none since, no deaths. Wearing masks and being aware of exposure, and what to do about it, via education, is the key. It's a good time for the county to move into Phase 2.

Susan Zappa  
824 SW Ebb Ave  
Lincoln City OR 97367

Sent from my iPad