

MAYOR
Keith Pekau

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April 17, 2020

Governor J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Last week, a letter was sent to you signed by five southwest suburban mayors via email through your Chief-of-Staff. I recognize that decisions about when and how to reopen our economy are difficult. The letter that was sent to you had a few common sense requests, that if enacted could serve as a starting point for re-opening the economy.

I was hopeful that you would act on some of these requests, but at a minimum, I would have expected a response from someone in your administration.

As noted in that letter, we are starting to see more people leave their homes for both exercise and "essential business" as people seek a sense of normalcy. The information we have today is more detailed than what we had on March 20th, yet our approach to our businesses has stayed the same. I believe it is in everyone's interest to adapt to the situation as information evolves.

Since the beginning of this crisis, local officials have been the enforcement arm of your decisions. However, rather than being engaged in the process, local officials have been informed of these decisions via press conferences. This creates enormous challenges for local government bodies.

Local officials are sympathetic to the demands you face, but they also understand the needs of their residents and businesses and are responsible to implement your decisions. For this reason, it is critical that as the re-opening plan is developed, Illinois mayors are involved in the process and informed of the plan.

I respectfully request that you review our previous letter and allow for certain businesses to open immediately as their opening can be accomplished without negatively impacting COVID-19 recovery efforts. I am also hopeful that you will ensure that Illinois mayors are engaged in the recovery efforts. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request and for your efforts during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Pekau".

Keith Pekau
Village President, Village of Orland Park