

City of Taunton

Office of the Mayor



For Immediate Press Release: 6/6/2020
8211000

Contact Person: Radka Barter 508-

O'CONNELL ANNOUNCES MORE SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Taunton, MA...Mayor Shaunna O'Connell announced the creation of a third fund to help the community recover from the effects of COVID-19.

“Since day one we have been working to help residents and businesses through this tough time. I am proud to announce that we have created another grant fund to help local small businesses keep their doors open,” said O'Connell. “Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and their future success is critical to the success of our community as a whole.”

The City of Taunton and Neighborhood Corporation have collaborated to form the Small Business Sustainability Fund to assist small businesses that have been substantially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and may have difficulty obtaining funding from other federal or state initiatives.

“Bristol County Savings Bank generously started the fund off with a \$50,000 donation. They have been deeply committed to our community for many years and we are grateful,” O'Connell said. The Taunton Development Corporation, a volunteer organization that has done tireless work to develop the Myles Standish Industrial Park, has also generously donated \$25,000.

“We were thrilled to be able to partner with the Mayor and the City to help Taunton,” said Larry Silvia, Neighborhood Corp. president.

Donations can be made through the City of Taunton website. O'Connell hopes that businesses and individuals who are able to donate will join her in supporting the small business community. For more information, O'Connell can be contacted directly.

Applications for grants are also available on the City of Taunton website. The Fund will award grants on a rolling basis to Small Businesses that qualify. Grants can be used to help address payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, costs associated with re-opening, and other expenses incurred as a result of the

pandemic. Applications will be reviewed by the Fund's committee members and approved based on need and eligibility criteria.

Local business owner Chris Coute, who is also working with the committee, said he understands how hard small business owners have been hit and is committed to doing whatever he can help provide assistance.

The City has now created three funds to provide assistance to individuals and businesses: COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, Small Business Recovery Grant Program, and Small Business Sustainability Fund.

###