

## **Business Outreach and Support**

### **Albert**

- Let me start by recognizing the terrific work being done by our Supervisor Gerry Siller, Deputy Supervisor Amber Brach-Williams, Chief Jim Read – with both is Police Chief AND Emergency Manager hats on!
- Your Town Board is here to help where we can. Gerry has asked me and Mike Bebon to act as Liaisons to the Island's business people. If you have ideas, concerns, or questions, please reach out to us. You can reach me at [adickson@shelterislandtown.us](mailto:adickson@shelterislandtown.us) and Mike at [mbebon@shelterislandtown.us](mailto:mbebon@shelterislandtown.us).
- I am working closely with the Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce and Mike is working to develop information about loan programs and other support available from off the island.
- Hats off to the Chamber for extending beyond their members to provide information about who is open, hours, etc. Well done and much appreciated by us all.
- Jim Colligan is working with the volunteer program so if you have employees who want to volunteer their time or if you need help, contact Jim at [jcolligan@shelterislandtown.us](mailto:jcolligan@shelterislandtown.us).
- In closing I also want to thank our Island business community. Everywhere I go I see signs of how our business owners are working with State, County and Town government to keep all of us safe at this difficult time, while still enabling all of us access to the supplies and service we need to keep going.
- From the blue Xs at the IGA, to several businesses leaving their doors open, and providing hand sanitizers, it is heart-warming to see the efforts being made.
- Now let me turn it over to Mike.

### **Mike**

- I want to echo Albert's comments about Gerry, Amber, and Jim Read. Their leadership has been world-class, and their care and concern for keeping our community safe and informed is evident every day.
- I also want to emphasize that Albert and I are eager to help where we can. Reach out to us to share your thoughts, observations, and issues. We will do whatever we can to help.
- So, let me now share some information. You may already know this, but I want to be sure everyone is aware.
- If you are a SI small business owner you may be eligible for a Small Business Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA). A total of \$50 billion is available nationwide, with loans to individual businesses of up to \$2 million each. For more information go to: [www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19).

- The Stony Brook Small Business Development Center (SBSBDC) is a great resource for our business people. They can assist you with preparing your SBA application.
  - They will also check your application for completeness before you submit it to the SBA. (This service is highly recommended).
  - You can reach them at [sbdc@stonybrook.edu](mailto:sbdc@stonybrook.edu). You will need to register with them (link on their website) to be scheduled for a discussion with one of their counselors.
  - All services provided by SBSBDC are free of charge.
  - The SBSBDC phone number is 631-632-9837.
  - All of the staff is working remotely but will schedule sessions over the phone once you are registered.
- We will be posting additional information about the SBSBDC on the Town website soon.
- There is also a wealth of current and useful information on the Suffolk County Business Recovery Unit website. [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Business-Recovery-Unit](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Business-Recovery-Unit) including:
  - You can participate in a Business Impact Survey
  - Learn about the Dept of Labor Shared Work program which tries to help avoid layoffs
  - Newsday is offering free announcements for businesses to communicate with their customers.
- Another useful site is the Long Island Association (LIA) website.
- For our Contractor Community:
  - The Long Island Contractors Association website has many useful links to information. Go to their site and click on the red COVID-19 banner just under the logo.
  - Among the documents posted are Tool Box Briefings that you can give to your workers. They contain many suggested actions to take to minimize exposure of your workers and your clients on the jobsite
    - COVID-19 Know the Facts
    - COVID-19 Know the Facts #2
    - COVID-19 Protect Yourself
    - COVID-19 Protect Your Jobsites

## **Albert**

**In closing, let me share a few ideas about how we can all help support our local businesses:**

- During this time when many of our local businesses are shutdown, doing takeout only, or providing limited services, I've come to appreciate even

more how vital our local businesses are to making Shelter island the wonderful community it is.

- With our help, all of our local businesses will make it through these tough times. So here are a few ideas
- You can check what local restaurants are open and what their hours are by visiting the Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce website at [shelterislandchamber.org](http://shelterislandchamber.org)
- To see the list of New York State “essential businesses” type *New York State PAUSE Executive Order* in your browser.
- You help our local businesses make it through this stressful time by:
  - Shopping locally whenever possible.
  - Purchasing Gift Certificates for use in a few months.
  - Purchasing goods and services now that you might have been planning to purchase later in the year.
  - Making a personal donation (non-tax deductible) to your favorite business owner.

#### **Questions and Answers:**

##### **Q: What are the interest rates for the SBA loans?**

A: The interest rate is determined by formulas set by law and is fixed for the life of the loan. The maximum interest rate is 3.75%

##### **Q: Will the Town be able to help people with the SBA application?**

A: Albert and Mike will do what they can, but they are not familiar with the nuances of the SBA application. Based on a quick review it did not look intimidating, but we suggest reaching out to the SBSBDC. As discussed before, they highly recommend having their people review the application before it is submitted. They have 8 counselors who know the application process very well and can help avoid pitfalls.. There will be a few months delay from the time a **complete** application is received by SBA till payment is made, so you want to be sure your application is complete when you send it in so time is not lost by them determining it is incomplete and rejecting it.