



Dear Valued Member,

Chicago Restaurant Operators Sign IRA Letter to Mayor Lightfoot

1,500+ members of Chicago's restaurant and hospitality community that signed on to the IRA's letter to Mayor Lightfoot requesting increased occupancy at restaurants.

The IRA continues to make clear the urgent needs of Chicago's restaurant industry to Mayor Lightfoot and aldermen, including increased occupancy to 50%, expanded hours of operations, additional capacity for private events, and more.

[Click here](#) to read the IRA's letter.

Don't Let Congress Leave D.C. Without Helping Restaurants!

According to the latest National Restaurant Association industry data, restaurants report declining business conditions for August by an over two to one margin. Over 100,000 restaurants have already closed, and 40% of operators said they would be forced out of business in the next six months if there is not additional federal aid.

Congress is struggling to pass a recovery bill before leaving Washington for the elections, possibly not considering an alternative until January.

We need Congress to take short-term action now – targeting the proposals that already have extensive bipartisan support. The restaurant industry needs help now more than ever—and what we need to help restaurants and employees is simple:

- authorize an additional round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding
- ensure restaurants can deduct business expenses paid with PPP loans
- provide a tax credit for investments that enhance the safety of customers and employees
- expand the Employee Retention Tax Credit

Congress is scheduled to leave Washington at the end of the month – they need to hear from you now!

Please contact your lawmakers by clicking [here](#).

WARN Act Reminders for Employers

Employers should be advised that two separate, but similar, versions of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) Act exist: a federal WARN Act and an Illinois WARN Act. Illinois employers must follow both laws.

In general, the Illinois WARN Act contains stricter notice requirements, but since Illinois employers must follow both laws, the following information combines the requirements under both the federal and Illinois WARN Acts. For ease of reference in this summary, the combined laws are referenced generally as the WARN Act.

[Click here](#) for a summary of the WARN Act for employers from Hinshaw & Culbertson.

Looting Penalties Ordinance Introduced

Alderman Matt O'Shea (19th) has introduced an ordinance in the Chicago City Council that would establish penalties for looting. Specifically, it provides for the impoundment of any vehicle involved in looting activity. Further it specifically prohibits looting, which is defined as the forcible entry of property without the owner's permission or removing of property from a property that has been forcibly entered. Violations will result in fines of \$1,000 to \$2,000 or imprisonment of up to six months or both. It also imposes a fine of \$2,000 for any owner of a vehicle involved in looting. Based on probable cause, the police are responsible for towing a vehicle believed to be involved in looting.

[Click here](#) to read the ordinance.

Gov. Pritzker Announces \$245 Million in Grants for Businesses and Communities Impacted by COVID-19 and Civil Unrest

Yesterday, Governor Pritzker joined the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in the Bronzeville community to announce the latest in a series of grants made available for small businesses in Illinois suffering losses as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as communities impacted by the recent civil unrest.

Applications for the second round of the Business Interruption Grants (BIG) program will be made available this Thursday afternoon and will offer \$220 million in funds for small businesses hit hardest by the ongoing pandemic.

The Governor also announced applications for the new Rebuild Distressed Communities (RDC) program will become available in the coming weeks. This program will provide \$25 million in funding to cover the cost of civil-unrest related repairs while also supporting new investments in economically distressed communities across Illinois.

[Click here](#) to read more.
