



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

May 11, 2021

Elliott Ferguson  
Destination DC  
901 7th Street, NW, #400  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Elliott:

Throughout the historic COVID-19 pandemic, you, your employees, your fellow business colleagues, and your families have demonstrated great tenacity, incredible innovation, and an adherence to guidelines and guidance on how to keep our city, our residents, our workers, and our visitors healthy, safe, and strong from the coronavirus. I have been pleased to learn of the important perspectives you and colleagues in the industry have experienced and relayed to me via email and on social media. And, you no doubt have also seen what I have observed in every corner of Washington, DC: our residents and businesses have been extraordinary at doing all that we have asked during the pandemic, the unrest, and beyond.

I know it has not been easy; in fact, we believe it has been the most challenging time our city and country will face together both professionally and personally. You have been highlighting our improving health metrics and the nearly universal access to the vaccine in recent correspondence to me and my team. And we heard you. The dramatic improvement in our health metrics are continuing moving in the right direction and we expect that encouraging movement will only continue. That is why yesterday, I was proud to announce that on May 21, restrictions on public and commercial activity in the District, including capacity limits, types of activities, and time restrictions, will be lifted. Some exceptions are bars, nightclubs, and large sports and entertainment venues. However, we expect that just three weeks later on June 11, we will be able to turn up activity in the District all the way—completely lifting capacity limits and restrictions on all those venues that cannot fully reopen on May 21.

It is my expectation that with continued vigilance, we will all continue doing what is required to keep ourselves, our families, our colleagues, and our friends safe, and of course I expect that our workers, residents, and visitors will continue to follow the CDC's mask guidance.

We have asked a great deal of you this past year, but while I have your attention, I do have just two more important requests:

- **Please help us do all you can to get your families, your team members, and your customers vaccinated.** The only way we crush this virus is by getting everyone – that's each and every family member, friend, colleague and customer – to take the shot(s). You will be much more creative than we may ever be in reaching individuals and inspiring them to do it, but here are two resources:
  - Our list of where to get vaccinated: [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov)
  - Sign-up if you can donate a good or service as a vaccine incentive: [bit.ly/TakeTheShotDC](https://bit.ly/TakeTheShotDC)

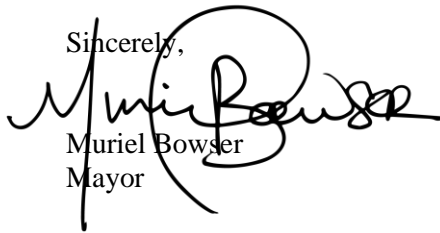
- I am certain that you and many others have already done this, but **please be sure to apply for available U.S. Small Business Administration grants:**
  - **Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF):** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/restaurant-revitalization-fund>
  - **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG):** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>

District grant assistance will pale in comparison to what RRF and SVOG can provide to our small businesses. And, while we believe the initial funding will be exceeded, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with you to advocate for more funding if that is the case. But for now, **we need to ensure that DC's entire industry steps forward and applies now.**

Your hard work and sacrifices over a difficult year have been so inspiring to me. I am grateful for all you have done to keep your businesses open, staff employed, and our residents fed—and I cannot thank you enough for your tremendous dedication to the District. I've often said, we're all in this together, and we will get through this together. But now, as we are prepared to fully turn up our economy and get back on track, know that I now believe that from the start, we've been in this together, and we are so close to getting through this together.

Thanks for all you have done and will continue to do—now, let's keep pushing!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muriel Bowser', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor