

From: [Margaret Pennington](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extending Planning and Building Permits in response to covid-19 for one Year - SEBASTOPOL
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:15:23 PM

Dear Santa Rosa City Council Member:

I wrote to you previously urging you to adopt policies extending planning and building permits in response to the economic hardship associated with the covid-19 health emergency. I noted that Sonoma County had adopted automatic extensions last spring. Additionally, the City of Sebastopol approved a resolution extending planning and building permits in response to Covid-19 for one year at their September 15, 2020 city council meeting.

<https://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/getattachment/Meeting-Event/City-Council/2020/City-Council-Meeting-September-15,-2020/Agenda-Item-Number-4-CC-Staff-Report-with-Covid-19-Permit-Extensions.pdf.aspx>

The staff report in support of the resolution notes: "The Covid-19 viral pandemic has caused unprecedented economic impacts to business and industry... The uncertainty of the magnitude and timeline of these impacts to daily life has stifled the ability of many ... business owners to move forward with any plans for investment and expansion. ... This has impacted the ability of some businesses as well as homeowners, to move forward with procuring a building permit, as financing becomes tighter and as individuals' income and business revenues are impacted by the Covid-19 emergency."

"As such staff is proposing that existing approvals for both planning entitlements and building permits be extended to allow additional time for individuals and businesses to procure building permits or begin a use."

The staff report also states: Fiscal Impact: "None; City fees in effect at the time of permit issuance will still be required."

The Council Resolution includes a couple of notable "WHEREAS" clauses that I hope you, the City of Santa Rosa City Council, agree with:

WHEREEAS, the health of local businesses is critical to the City's economy and the ability of businesses and property owners to make improvements to their properties and pursue their business interests are a critical component of the City's long-term recovery from the financial impacts of Covid-19 pandemic, and,

WHEREAS the City Council of Sebastopol wishes to support local residents, business owner and property owners throughout this emergency and in their recovery."

Again, I urge you to join Sonoma County, Sebastopol, and other communities in supporting local residents, business owners and property owners by taking the simple step of extending expiration dates on use/zoning permits and building applications and permits.

Also, if you are not supportive of an automatic extension of expiration dates for use/zoning permits and building application and permits could you please explain your thinking about this? I can not

understand why members of the Santa Rosa City Council would be opposed to helping local businesses survive this economically devastating year.

Sincerely,
Margaret Pennington



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10