



July 13, 2020

Dear Mayor Koniar and City Council Members:

As you are aware the 2020 Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival was canceled due to the treats associated with the coronavirus. The performance contract between the South Baldwin Chamber and the City of Foley is \$50,000 for executing a successful signature event for the City of Foley, the business community, as well as our citizens and visitors.

Concerning the use of the \$50,000; the South Baldwin Chamber has paid expenses in the amount of approximately \$20,000. These expenses will not be recovered.

Due to the world wide pandemic our attention and efforts have turned toward assisting our business community survive and learn how to prosper during this unusual time.

Our response is as follows:

- The restaurant and hospitality industry has a phenomenal track record of protecting its employees and guests. As patrons and staff alike are welcomed back to dine, relax, play, serve, and work, thoughtful, selfless decisions and operational changes must occur to ensure the safety of all.
- Alabama's hospitality businesses, healthcare experts, and educational institutions have partnered to develop a program that ensures the safety, health, and happiness of each guest is top notch, through employee education and certification. Through the **Alabama Restaurant + Hospitality PROMISE**, we will work together to keep the hospitality industry in our great state as vibrant as it was prior to COVID-19.
- This program and **Promise** will require individual operations to educate and certify their staff, make efforts to display their new policies and procedures in their store fronts, lobbies, dining rooms, and online, to engage in continual efforts to keep their operations and employees aligned with these protocols, and develop new methods for distant or contactless customer exchanges when feasible.
- The **Promise** also depends on guests, customers, and patrons taking personal responsibility: to utilize contactless delivery options when available, to follow masking and social distancing guidelines set in place by healthcare officials, and to self-screen prior to visiting any hospitality establishment.
- With hospitality businesses and their customers working together to follow these guidelines, we can keep Alabama restaurants and hospitality establishments open and employees and customers safe.

We respectfully request the City of Foley allow the remaining \$30,000 to be used to assist with the costs associated with labor, materials, supplies and staff cost for the program outlined in this document.



Should you need additional information, please contact me and I will be happy to provide a prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Donna H. Watts
President & CEO