

February 25, 2021



THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

**WHEREAS**, in March of 2020, Berrien County became one of the Counties in Michigan affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor subsequently declared a state of emergency and issued numerous orders that implemented statewide mitigation efforts affecting citizens and entire industries in unprecedented ways; and

**WHEREAS**, the restaurant industry is among those hardest hit as they are still currently restricted to 25% capacity and limited hours of operation, following a second dine-in closure which lasted 75 days; and

**WHEREAS**, many businesses have been unable to obtain state or federal financial aid, or the financial aid they received was insufficient in the face of additional unanticipated state-mandated closures and restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, these closures have inevitably led countless consumers to seek respite in less restrictive marketplaces like Northern Indiana, resulting in additional significant revenue losses for Michigan businesses in border counties like Berrien; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association has released hospitality industry economic impact data that showed some 3,000 restaurants in the state have already permanently closed, representing over 200,000 lost jobs and 33% of Michigan restaurant operators say it is unlikely their restaurant will still be in business six months from now; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor just extended the time frame for restaurant restrictions through March 29; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners would like to advocate for additional support from its citizens for struggling restaurants, ultimately helping the overall economy as well as providing a direct infusion of funds to our local workforce.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners declares March of 2021 as "Restaurant Month" and encourages its citizens to frequent area restaurants with dine-in or take-out business.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will be forwarded to all local municipalities for possible action by their elected officials to highlight the restaurants in their respective areas and encourage a similar action by residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Berrien County leadership will continue to appeal to the Governor's office for an increased return to safe indoor dining which will allow for a beleaguered industry to aim for economic recovery while also fostering community building and positive social interactions after a year of isolation.

Respectfully,  
Berrien County Board of Commissioners

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R. McKinley Elliott

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Jim Curran

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Julie Wuerfel

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Ezra A. Scott

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David Vollrath

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Michael J. Majerek

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Don Meeks

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Teri Sue Freehling

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Robert P. Harrison

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Mamie L. Yarbrough

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Jon Hinkelman

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Rayonte D. Bell