

Port of Seattle Statement

May 12, 2020

Good Afternoon

I am speaking on behalf of Seattle Chocolate, a local, woman owned business that has been a part of the SEA airport for over five years. Due to the Covid 19 virus restrictions we closed our store on March 23rd and since then have received no revenue from that location while continuing to pay our employees and expenses. We join other members of the SBAAC requesting rent relief, not just deferral, and an extension of 3-5 years beyond our current least expiration, with meaningful adjustments to reflect our new environment.

Rent deferrals are not enough. Airline CEOs are stating that it could be years before we see the passenger numbers that we saw in 2019 and the results will be a dramatic decrease in our revenue this year at the airport, while in the meantime our expenses continue at current levels. Deferring rent for payment to a later time doesn't eliminate the expense or the negative impact on our business. It only moves it to a later date.

In addition, as we prepare to reopen we need to receive accurate flight and passenger information in a timely manner that include anticipated passenger counts by hour. This will help us make educated decisions on how to reopen our businesses when allowed to and in the most efficient and profitable way. These decisions will be challenging without having all the available data.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your partnership in ensuring the long-term success of our business.