



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MIKE SCHNALL CALLS ON CITY AND STATE TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO ADDRESS PANDEMIC'S WIDESPREAD IMPACTS ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

*Government has tools in-hand to take immediate steps*

(STATEN ISLAND, NY) – Mike Schnall, a Democratic candidate for the north shore of Staten Island, District 49, called on the City and State to take immediate action to address the pandemic's widespread impacts on small businesses:

"With restaurants and bars remaining closed in New York City, the City and State are obligated to all those small owners and employees, to find immediate ways to repair the damages caused by the pandemic. The City and State have many tools in their toolbox to take immediate steps to address the various and widespread impacts on small businesses.

"I want to applaud our elected leaders in Albany on legislation being considered to address issues in the restaurant, hospitality and small business sectors. Legislation is just one of many ways the City and State must start to mitigate for damages to our restaurant and hospitality industries.

"Simple ideas should be looked at and implemented immediately: refunds and credits for State Liquor Authority licenses that went largely unused for nine months of 2020; amnesty for 2020 and 2021 taxes and fees of all types on small businesses; grants from the City and State to subsidize rent and utility costs while businesses are being shuttered due to rolling COVID-19 mandated closures; placing mortgages on pause for struggling building and business owners; and an immediate halt to all unnecessary and seemingly punitive inspections and investigations from State and City authorities.

(CONTINUED)

**MIKE SCHNALL FOR CITY COUNCIL**

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"The stunning unwillingness of government to communicate has exacerbated an already difficult situation. The City and State should act immediately to establish open lines of communication, with dedicated local staff who can act as liaisons to work with restaurants, businesses and landlords to address questions, concerns and comments. A dedicated phone line, email address and social media accounts would be welcomed too.

“Additionally, all of our north shore small businesses, ranging from restaurants to retail to landlords and everyone included, should be connected immediately with resources to apply for and receive the second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) supported by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).

"These ideas sound simple, but unless the City and State show a measure of empathy and caring for the hard-working small businesses and workers on Staten Island, they will be forced to go out of business, lay off workers, default on their mortgages, cause damage to our families and neighbors, and the backbone of our communities will crumble.

"I call on the Mayor and the City Council to enact many of these changes immediately, and to work in concert with the Governor and both state legislative houses, to do what is right, just, equitable, and do it quickly, to help our fellow New Yorkers."

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