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## HUNTINGTON BEACH HOSTS FIRST VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES TOWARDS RECOVERY

*Initial meeting to be held on May 29 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., and will feature experts who will discuss business resources related to the Paycheck Protection Program run by the SBA.*

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As part of the City's ongoing efforts to help the Huntington Beach business community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City and Orange County Inland Empire SBDC Network will be hosting a series of Virtual Town Hall Meetings covering topics to help businesses transition out of the pandemic and towards recovery in a changed economic landscape. To maintain social distancing, these virtual meetings will be held on Zoom and can be accessed anywhere, using a personal computer or smart phone.

"The City is committed to help our business community recover and achieve long term success following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," says Mayor Lyn Semeta. "Small businesses form the backbone of our community, driving growth and prosperity in Huntington Beach. Our Virtual Town Hall meetings will provide valuable tools, information, and resources to facilitate our economic recovery efforts."

The Virtual Town Hall business support concept is one of multiple programs that have been developed through the City's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force, which was developed by Mayor Semeta. The Economic Recovery Task Force is comprised of local Huntington Beach business leaders from nine different industry sectors, and representative members have worked to develop and advocate for various initiatives to help aid efforts to rebuild a Surf City economy that has been severely impacted by the current pandemic.

The first Virtual Town Hall meeting will take place on **Friday, May 29 from 8:30am-10:00am** and is sponsored by the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce, Union Bank, and the Orange County Business Council. The meeting will focus on various small business resources including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a Small Business Administration program that offers federally-backed loans to small businesses who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. An expert panel will share their insights and experience with the PPP:

- **Sheik Sattaur**, Assistant Vice President, Union Bank and Chair of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce (Facilitator)
- **Michael Daniel**, Regional Director of the Orange County Inland Empire SBDC Network and Small Business Owner
- **Sandra Felegy**, Business Banking Manager of Union Bank
- **Natalie Rubalcava**, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Investor Relations of the Orange County Business Council



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To access the Virtual Townhall, participants are being asked to use the following Zoom access information below to join this meeting on **May 29 at 8:30 a.m.**:

[https://huntingtonbeach.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RcJXShPnTFGZRtlw2Y7xHw](https://huntingtonbeach.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RcJXShPnTFGZRtlw2Y7xHw)

The entire Huntington Beach business community is welcome to take part in this informative and interactive Virtual Town Hall Meeting. Future meetings will be announced on the City of Huntington Beach's website, [www.HBready.com](http://www.HBready.com) and its social media platforms. For additional information, please contact Economic Development Project Manager, Robert Ramirez at (714) 375-5186.