

Hello,

I am a small business owner in Portland. I sell vintage and antique clothing, housewares, and furniture. I currently sell out of two brick and mortar stores, online, and also local markets. Because of the coronavirus precautions one of the stores and my market for this month were both canceled. That is 75% of my income lost for the month, and I barely scrape by each month as it is. On top of this I have been sick/self quarantined with coronavirus symptoms (waiting for test results) since last Sunday. This has greatly impacted my income as well, not just because of being unable to work, but because the fear around spreading the virus has caused me to halt any sales I could be doing online to supplement the loss of physical sales.

The impact of this virus is so huge on so many of us, but for a self run small business a loss of sales or time is a permanent loss. We already run at full capacity and devote most of our life to our businesses. There is no catching up, there is no making up for that loss, we just have to take it and move on. So many of us are facing the very real reality that we may lose our businesses entirely. This impacts the whole of Portland negatively as it is the small businesses that Portlanders cherish most, they are what make our city so special. The majority of the vintage/antique community is self run, and in a time of environmental distress, buying second hand is so essential to reducing our impact. Any assistance or support your committee can provide us would be monumental and would greatly change the outcome of this crisis.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Kindly,  
Chelsea Marie McKenny  
from Continuall