

From: Rob Leslie <RLeslie@visitseattle.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:23 AM

To: Clerk, King County Council <Clerk@kingcounty.gov>

Cc: Edouardo@thirdpower3.com; Tom Norwalk <TNorwalk@visitseattle.org>; Ali Daniels <ADaniels@visitseattle.org>

Subject: Written Public Comment - King County Council Meeting

Dear King County,

Please find written public testimony from Chef and Restaurant Owner Edouardo Jordan for today's King County Council meeting at 1pm.

Thank you.

-r

Rob Leslie, Director, Partnership and Destination Services

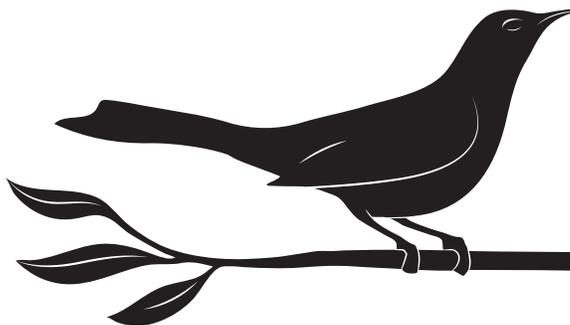
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JUNE BABY

2122 NE 65th Street Seattle WA 98115



Dear King Councilmembers,

I write to you today to ask for your approval of the \$57 million emergency supplemental budget (2020-0177), specifically the funding regarding vital tourism promotion for King County's nonprofit tourism authorities.

This proposal is essential to supporting businesses throughout King County in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and its probable long-term impact. This legislation would facilitate immediate support to small and medium-sized businesses that benefit from tourism and help power the county's long-term economic recovery.

I own three small restaurants in Seattle: Salare, JuneBaby, and Lucinda. All my businesses have had to either close or pivoted to stay afloat. We depend largely on tourist and the work that our tourist boards play in staying in business. As Covid-19 quickly crept into our city we saw a decline in business of 20% then 30% and up to 60% before we had to close our doors. We are business that depends on the connective energy of tourism promotions and visitors to our beautiful city.

Now more than ever, my organization depends on our non-profit destination marketing organizations to implement robust marketing and communications programs that will jumpstart tourism business recovery. By approving this funding, you will empower our region to stimulate visitation, expenditures, local and state taxes and employment – and the success of their destination marketing programs will allow my business to focus on my own marketing initiatives.

I urge you to approve this legislation so that the King County tourism industry can build an impactful, long-term economic recovery program.

Sincerely,

Edouardo Jordan

Chef/Owner
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www.junebabyseattle.com
www.lucindaseattle.com
Business: 206-310-0750