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April 2020



QUARTERLY **POLICY PERSPECTIVES**

Hello VISIT DENVER Partners,

First and foremost, we hope this email finds you, your families and colleagues safe and healthy during this difficult time.

In this issue of the quarterly *Policy Perspectives* newsletter, COVID-19 resources are highlighted at the top followed by general updates. We hope all this information serves as a useful tool to help you and your business navigate this crisis.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Carrie Atiyeh, Director of Government & Community Affairs, at catiyeh@visitdenver.com or (303) 571-9466. Thank you and be well!

SPECIAL COVID-19 SECTION

VISIT DENVER COVID-19 Resources

- VISIT DENVER has established a [dedicated COVID-19](#) webpage that is up to date during this constantly evolving crisis. You can also find information about employee and business assistance programs, as well as how you can support our industry and community during this time on our newly developed [resources page](#).
- Together with Eat Denver, the Colorado Restaurant Association, and Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau, VISIT DENVER launched [ToGoDenver.com](#) to support restaurants, breweries, wineries and distilleries continuing to offer takeout and delivery services. And while many of Denver's attractions and cultural facilities are temporarily closed, they are offering a wide array of online and virtual experiences, which you can find on the new [Virtually Denver](#) page.

Local COVID-19 Resources

- The [City and County of Denver COVID-19 page](#) includes information on community and business support services, local preparation and more.

State COVID-19 Resources

- VISIT DENVER President & CEO Richard W. Scharf is chairing the tourism subcommittee for Governor Polis' [Emergency Council on Economic Stabilization and Growth](#) to recommend policies to ensure our industry recovers as quickly as possible.
- The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) is providing updated messaging and resources for [statewide tourism partners](#).
- The [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment COVID-19 page](#) provides details for statewide orders, case summary, and recent updates and the [Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#) is a source for business assistance.

Federal COVID-19 Resources

- The U.S. Travel Association (USTA), our national trade association, has been tirelessly advocating at the federal level to ensure the tourism industry is supported by federal relief programs and policies. [USTA's Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) page provides detailed information about the CARES Act for federal financial assistance programs, national orders, messaging and talking points for our industry, and much more.

LOCAL NEWS



- The 2020 Census is underway. If you have not already responded, it is easy to do so [online](#). Census data is a critical tool utilized to determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into our community and the state each year as well as draw Congressional boundaries.
- In 2017, Denver voters overwhelmingly passed nearly \$1 billion in bonds to support an array of public projects, now known as [Elevate Denver](#), including projects with high visitor impact such as the Denver Art Museum, Denver Botanic Gardens, 16th Street Mall, Skyline Park, Civic Center, and many more.
- In an effort to streamline regulation and enforcement of short-term rentals, Denver has sought to forge a deal with Airbnb to [remove inactive listings](#) from the platform but a deal remains to be completed.
- [Bannock Street](#) in front of the City and County of Denver building will be permanently closed to vehicles and converted into public space through a series of near-term and long-term modifications.
- Denver intends to expand the city's [bike lane network](#) by 125 miles by 2023 as part of the Denver Moves planning initiative.
- [Happy 25th birthday](#) Denver International Airport (DEN)! DEN generated over [\\$33.5 billion of economic impact](#) for Colorado in 2018, welcomed nearly [70 million passengers](#) in 2019, the [Great Hall](#) project is moving forward, and gate expansions for [United](#) and Southwest have been approved by Denver City Council.

STATE NEWS



- The Colorado Department of Transportation's new [Snowstang](#) bus service connecting Denver to area ski resorts has reported strong ridership including 40% of passengers from out-of-state prior to the COVID-related closures.
- State Senator Bob Gardner was the sponsor of [SB109](#) that would have taxed short-term rentals at the commercial property tax rate of 29% compared to the current residential rate of 7.1%. The bill is not moving forward this session but the issue will continue to be heavily debated.
- [House Bill 1233](#), which would have limited or overturned local governments' camping ordinances and other public space regulations, did not pass out of committee.
- [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) set another visitor record in 2019, welcoming 4.6 million visitors.
- [Global Entry](#), a U.S. Customs expedited security program for international travelers, is experiencing a backlog of applications at Denver International Airport and other airports across the U.S.

FEDERAL NEWS



- The compliance date for [Real ID](#) requiring all states to modernize drivers' licenses has been extended for one year to October 2021 and was supported by the tourism industry.
- U.S. Travel Association (USTA) President & CEO Roger Dow presented a [State of the Travel Industry](#) address highlighting 2019 successes and vision for the future (note: this was recorded pre-COVID-19).

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES



Should you have questions or need further information on anything that CHLA is working on, please don't hesitate to contact Amie Mayhew, President & CEO, at 303-297-8335 or amayhew@chla.com.

Please contact Nick Hoover, Government Affairs Coordinator or Sonia Riggs, President & CEO, at 303-830-2972, should you have questions or need further information on anything that CRA is working on.



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