

GRAND CANYON

SOUTH RIM Chamber of Commerce

March 24, 2020

Dear Grand Canyon National Park:

The Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce has surveyed and spoken to members regarding our position on whether the Park should remain open. First, we want you to know that we are appreciative of you reaching out to the business community for input. We have many mixed feelings among members but health safety within our community is of top concern.

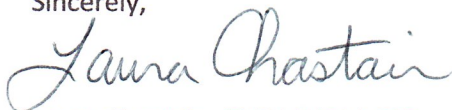
It is obvious that the spring break crowds continue to arrive despite Federal messaging regarding travel. CDC guidelines for Social Distancing are not being achieved on trails and viewpoints this is putting not only visitors but residents at risk. We are considered a rural community; we have many communal housing situations and limited health care resources a full outbreak here will overwhelm our health system. Currently the majority of our members support a two-week closure to slow the spread. They realize visitors are not abiding by the CDC's recommended Social Distancing Guidelines and that cleanliness/supplies in restrooms can lead to further spread of the virus. Towards the end of a two-week closure they would recommend further evaluation of the situation and to be forth coming with information. As this situation is unprecedented if a Park Closure does occur once there is evidence it is safe to re-open, the members request a 48-hour turn-around for reopening.

Members also request that all local residents have access to the clinic, bank, post office, grocery store and food bank during the closure.

We know and understand that the situation is changing and shifting daily. We appreciate the IC structure that has been established and will continue to support and communicate information to our membership.

If you have additional requests, please communicate those requests to me to share with our Membership.

Sincerely,



Laura Chastain, SPRH SHRM-SCP
General Manager
Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce