

**City of Racine, Wisconsin
Office of the Mayor**



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Office of Mayor Mason
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Response to the following:

- The owners of Dimple's have approached us and have said that when questioning the mayor, he told them that they didn't get the grant because Denis Navratil went to a protest in Madison in April over the Safer at Home order. Is that the case?

"As Mayor, it is my duty to protect the public health of our City's residents. While I certainly support the rights of free speech and assembly, I cannot in good conscious send scarce City resources to a person or business that willingly jeopardized public health, especially when they were competing with other businesses who were not flagrantly violating safety measures. If an applicant was openly violating the statewide "Safer at Home" order and the public health emergency under which the City was operating to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus, that applicant would compete less favorably. For instance, participating in mass gatherings outside of our community, such as the rally that was held at the State Capitol – such large gatherings have been linked to cases of COVID-19 around the state - and then returning to our City, only served to put our residents at unnecessary risk and, thus, factored into the funding consideration. When it comes to disbursing discretionary funds aimed at helping businesses who were sacrificing to protect public health, the City is not going to reward business owners who took reckless behaviors that risked the health of our community." – **Mayor Cory Mason**