Local businesses gradually recovering from civil unrest, pandemic

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When Melaku Antoine’s West Philadelphia-based variety store was ransacked by looters in 2020, it took almost a year for his business to recover.

His shop, Paradise Gallery LLC, is one of many businesses along the 52nd Street commercial corridor that sustained significant damage when the police rollings George Floyd’s last breath, looting and violence and looted throughout Philadelphia last May.

Looters broke into Paradise Gallery early in the morning and stole about $17,000 worth of merchandise.

“It took us almost a year to get to all the funds that we need,” said Antoine, an immigrant from Ethiopia.

“Today, things are starting to pick up. Antoine said that he saw an upsurge in business sales this month from the recent observation of Ramadan, a holy month for Muslims.

“No we’re at the same place before the riots and the comes announcement,” he said.

Antoine said many communities were supportive and encouraging.

“Many 52nd Street corridor businesses were seriously affected by civil unrest and the pandemic,” said of Black radio.