



Impact Statement: Restore Illinois Tier One Resurgence Mitigations

It is requested that Rascals Music Pub / Rascals Live Music Venue be considered as a recipient for the total Tier One Mitigation funding amount of \$5,000.00 currently available for Moline businesses. Our business has been closed every day since March 16 due to the coronavirus and to our personal decision to go above and beyond the State of Illinois mandated restrictions.

We recognize that all businesses have been and will continue to financially struggle given the capacity, social distancing and masking requirements imposed by the State of Illinois. And, while we have applied for several grants for which we were qualified, we have not yet been awarded any grant funds. This family business has been successfully operational for 34 years in Moline. We have worked diligently to develop and maintain a business of high quality with a highly regarded reputation for sponsoring and participating in many worthwhile projects within the community.

The bar/entertainment business has many high cost expenses imposed on it such as various insurance premiums for the business, music licenses, liquor licenses/liability. Additionally, real estate property taxes, insurance and utilities (electric, gas, water) for 3 properties that house Rascals & Rascals Live, workman's compensation, and ongoing maintenance expenses have to be paid. Unfortunately, no special dispensation is being offered by any of these organizations. While very few businesses are interpreting the Restore Illinois Phase 4 guidelines capacity correctly, we have been. The Restore Illinois Phase 4 Guideline Capacity of mass gatherings is capped at the lesser of 50 people or 50% overall space capacity with social distancing measures enacted. By limiting capacity and because musicians touring costs have not decreased, tickets would be priced too high for the average customer with little or no discretionary income, and for the business to make any profit. Bars without food, such as Rascals, have only seen an average return of 20-30% of previous business since the onset of the Covid-19. These are the reasons we have made the decision to stay closed. If we were to have opened it would have been at a loss adding to our overall debt load each month. Even if we wanted to operate our business at these unreasonable losses, the Tier One Resurgence Mitigations make it impossible to operate in any capacity since the mitigation requirements do not allow for any indoor service.

While being closed and staying home, we have used this time to identify no or low-cost projects that would be difficult to do while operational. Some of these "sweat-equity" projects include deep cleaning in accordance with CDC guidelines, steam cleaning all surfaces at high virus killing temperatures, paint touch ups, flooring repairs, washroom upgrades, and restoration of fencing on the patio that was severely damaged by the recent derecho storm front. We continue to invest our limited funds in PPE by procuring hand sanitizers/masks/gloves/disinfectant wipes/disinfecting cleaners for our grand reopening. Our biggest and most time-consuming effort is the addition of over 125 "never displayed before" music memorabilia. These are pieces that we have acquired over the past 20 years.

We are truly grateful that Mayor Acri and the City of Moline have implemented a relief funding opportunity for businesses that have been devastatingly impacted by Covid-19. Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy impact statement. We remain hopeful that our decades long location in Moline will be recognized and considered to receive funding to help offset the costs from tier one mitigation.