

COVID-19 Update From EKA – June 5, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 78

Today is day 78 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 86 days ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Pandemic. Safer at Home orders have been in place in Los Angeles since March 19.

Previous EKA COVID-19 updates

Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#). Feel free to share our updates with friends and colleagues. We hope you find the information in the EKA updates and the questions they raise to be informative. If you have any COVID-19 government or communications questions, please reach out to any member of the EKA team. If you have a specific COVID-19 question, click [here](#) and we will attempt to answer it in our update.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Protests

As they have throughout the week, health officials urged people taking part in continuing protests in the Southland to wear face coverings and try to maintain social distancing of six feet from others. They reminded the public that the virus has a long incubation period. The Department issued a statement that said in part, "Testing negative for COVID-19 right after you've been exposed does not mean you can't become infected later during the incubation period, so please stay away from others for 14 days after possible exposure. Should you develop symptoms within 14 days of exposure, please contact your healthcare provider to connect to care and testing." she said. They urged people who may have spent time in large crowds with people not wearing face coverings to take steps to avoid potentially infecting vulnerable people at home. In those instances, the county urged residents living with people who are elderly or have underlying health conditions to wear face coverings at home and maintain a six-foot distance. Those people were also urged to avoid preparing food for others, sharing utensils, bedding and towels, and increase cleaning and disinfecting of common surfaces.

Voluntary Price Reductions

Item 11 on Tuesdays Board Agenda is a Motion that calls voluntary price reductions from Los Angeles County Contractors. The Motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directs the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Acting Director of Internal Services, County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller, and other Departments, as needed, to develop a model letter to send to Los Angeles County contractors within ten days, requesting a voluntary reduction of their rates from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. It also authorizes the Departments to execute contract amendments for cost reductions negotiated under this initiative; and direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Acting Director of Internal Services, to report back to the Board in writing by September 30 on the status of cost savings negotiated by Departments. To read the Motion, click [here](#). To view the full meeting agenda for the June 9 meeting, click [here](#).

LOS ANGELES

Outdoor Fitness

The City Council voted today to simplify the process for fitness businesses to apply for permits to conduct exercise classes and activities in public spaces during the COVID-19. Gyms and other fitness facilities have been closed since March 15 under the Los Angeles Safer at Home Order. The Motion directs the Recreation and Parks Department to simplify the process for the fitness businesses in ways that do not conflict with demand for general public use.

Food Delivery

The Council voted to limit food delivery company charges to restaurants. Third-party food delivery services will not be able to charge restaurants more than 15% of the cost of an order, and that limit will remain in place for 90 days after the City allows on-site dining to resume. The Council also voted to limit third-party food delivery companies from charging restaurants more than 5% to use their services or to pay commissions. The Los Angeles Chief Legislative Analyst and the Economic and Workforce Development Department will report on the effectiveness of the ordinance no later than 30 days after the prohibition of on-premises dining has been lifted. The Council also directed the CLA to report on further protections and effectiveness of the new law.

City Budget

Three City Council members filed a [motion](#) to cut the Los Angeles Police Department's budget by \$100 million to \$150 million for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Council President Nury Martinez filed the Motion. The operating budget of the LAPD is proposed to be nearly \$1.86 billion, up about \$122 million from last year. Martinez said the budget reduction is "just one aspect of change," and that to end racism will take broader and ideological changes. The LAPPL issued a [strongly worded statement](#) regarding the proposed cuts. According to Chief Legislative Analyst Sharon Tso, the City's Office of Finance is anticipating 2021 tax revenues will be a minimum of \$45 million short of Mayor Eric Garcetti's proposed budget and could fall short by as much as \$400 million, depending upon how quickly the economy recovers. The Budget & Finance Committee will meet on Monday to begin Budget deliberations, where changes to the budget, including those proposed, can be made.

Item	Description	Council File	Council Action
------	-------------	--------------	----------------

June 2 Council Meeting Agenda Items

14	ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTION and COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS (BOAC) relative to amending the	15-0694	Passed
----	--	-------------------------	--------

		Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) agreement with Boingo Wireless, Inc.		
	16	COMMUNICATION FROM THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES (POLA) relative to waiving Council review pursuant to City Charter Section 245(b) of various recent critical and time-sensitive actions approved by the Board of Harbor Commissioners (BOHC).	20-0649	Passed

June 3 Council Meeting Agenda Items				
	1	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to establishing a temporary limit on the charges imposed by third-party delivery services on retail food establishments during the COVID-19 epidemic and for 90 days after the City's Order prohibiting on-premises dining is lifted.	20-0470	Passed
	2	MOTION (RODRIGUEZ - BONIN) relative to the development of a program to allow for the deployment of the public right-of-way for use by restaurants for as long as	20-0614	Passed

	social distancing is necessary.		
3	REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that creates an expedited and low-cost permit process, during the COVID-19 Local Emergency, for businesses and Business Improvement Districts to apply for temporary use of sidewalks, streets, public spaces, and adjacent parcels for outdoor living, exercise classes, and other outdoor business operations that will enable compliance with the public health guidelines for physical distancing.	20-0616	Referred back to Committee
4	MOTION (BONIN - RODRIGUEZ) relative to a new affordable program that permits restaurants to provide dine-in service within the public right-of-way to meet the needs of the restaurant industry.	20-0617	Passed

	6 RESOLUTION relative to the Declaration of Local Emergency by the Mayor, dated March 4, 2020, wherein he declared that conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen both internationally and within the United States as a result of the introduction of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), pursuant to the provisions of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 8.27.	20-0291	Passed
--	--	-------------------------	--------

Storage Units

People who rent storage units in the City of Los Angeles and are unable to pay their rent got some relief from the City. Storage-unit renters financially strained by the coronavirus can defer payments now, and for up to three months after the City calls an end to its local state of emergency, according to the new law passed by the City Council and signed by Mayor Garcetti. This is not forgiveness; at the end of the three months after the City's emergency is over, all back payment is due. During the deferment, renters cannot be evicted or charged late fees. Tenants and storage unit facility operators have the discretion to work out a payment plan, but it's not required by the law. Storage facility operators have 15 days from when the law went into effect to notify renters of their rights. Renters who want to defer payments must write to the storage facility operator within seven days of payment being due, and be able to show they were financially impacted in some way by COVID-19. Passed with an urgency clause, the law went into effect immediately. To read the Motion, Click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

Headcount Tax

Legislation that will discourage hiring and job growth by imposing an employee "headcount tax" on certain employers was added to the [California Chamber of Commerce](#) job killer list. The Bill, [AB 398](#), institutes a tax of \$275 per employee for "an entity, including, but not limited to, a

limited liability company, corporation, or limited liability partnership, that has more than 500 employees that perform any part of their duties within the state." The CalChamber argues, would take the exact opposite approach and unnecessarily raise the cost associated with job growth. AB 398 also is an openly regressive tax disproportionately borne by lower-wage and lower-margin workers. A "headcount tax" increases the labor costs for businesses by making each employee more expensive, with the tax having a marginally higher impact to the lower-wage employees compared to their higher-paid, often higher-skilled counterparts. The increased labor costs from a "headcount tax" would put downward pressure on employee wages and workforce expansions, while simultaneously placing upward pressure to increase prices or even relocate the business outside of California.

Moratorium On Commercial Evictions

Senator Scott Wiener has introduced [SB 939](#), which would place a moratorium on commercial evictions for small businesses and nonprofits during the state of emergency, which has been in place since March 4 and could last months longer. It would also allow companies that have lost at least 40% of their revenue or are operating at reduced capacity to renegotiate their lease. If an agreement can't be reached, it would let tenants terminate the lease without penalty. It's targeted primarily at helping the hard-hit hospitality industry. SB 939 was approved by a Senate committee last week, but Wiener said he is still working on changes to garner support from commercial landlords, who largely oppose the Bill.

AG Sues Department of Education

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit against Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education for its failure to implement the Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness (TEPSLF) program. While many of the program's applicants have completed the public service and loan payment requirements necessary to qualify for forgiveness of the balance on their federal student loans, nearly all of them have had their applications denied by Secretary DeVos. In the complaint, Attorney General Becerra alleges that E.D.'s failure to implement the TEPSLF program violates the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). In the complaint, Attorney General Becerra alleges that E.D.'s failure to timely implement TEPSLF, including a simple method to apply for loan forgiveness, violates the APA because it:

- Constitutes unlawfully withheld action;
- Constitutes unreasonably delayed agency action; and
- Is arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise not in accordance with the law.

A copy of the complaint can be found [here](#).

Senate, Assembly Reach Agreement on 2020-21 Budget

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Budget Committee Chairs, Senator Holly J. Mitchell and Assemblymember Phil Ting announced today an agreement has been reached between the Senate and the Assembly on the proposed 2020-2021 state budget. The joint legislative plan builds on the Governor's framework to further protect jobs and preserve vital services while recognizing the sober economic outlook facing California. Acknowledging the strong likelihood of additional federal relief, the plan would use

reserves to avoid overcutting now, while still keeping reserves on hand for the future, and ensuring full funding of K-14 schools. The plan also increases legislative oversight on COVID-19 spending, recognizes that employee groups are engaging in the collective bargaining process with the administration, and encourages health plans to engage with the administration in discussing options that may be needed in the months ahead.

RETURNING TO WORK

CDC Recommends An Office Makeover

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [issued new guidance](#) detailing how employers can safely reopen offices following months of closure amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC guidance provides a step-by-step checklist for employers to follow to ensure that their office spaces are physically prepared for workers to return to work as they proceed with life beyond the pandemic. The CDC recommendations range from technical advice on ventilation systems to the abolition of the traditional handshake to employee temperature testing protocols. Key provisions are summarized below.

- **Create a COVID-19 Workplace Health and Safety Plan:** The [CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) provides guidelines and recommendations that all employers can use to protect their employees, clients, visitors, and vendors. Office building managers and employers within office buildings should use this guidance to establish, and update as necessary, their own workplace health and safety plan tailored to its space and workforce. According to the CDC, the plan should identify all areas and job tasks with potential exposure to COVID-19 and include measures to eliminate or reduce such risks.
- **Before Resuming Operations, Assess Whether the Building Is Ready For Occupancy and, If Not, Prepare It For Occupancy:** Ensure that ventilation systems in the facility operate properly. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and other methods. Check for hazards associated with prolonged facility shutdown such as mold growth, rodents or pests, or issues with stagnant water systems, and take appropriate remedial actions.
- **Identify Where and How Workers Might Be Exposed to COVID-19 at Work:** Conduct a thorough assessment of the workplace to identify potential workplace hazards that could increase risks for COVID-19 transmission. Identify work and common areas where employees could have close contact (within 6 feet) with others — for example, meeting rooms, break rooms, the cafeteria, locker rooms, check-in areas, waiting areas, and routes of entry and exit. In workplace communication plans, include all employees, such as management, staff, utility employees, relief employees, janitorial staff, maintenance staff, and supervisory staff. If contractors are employed in the workplace, develop plans to communicate with the contracting company regarding modifications to work processes and requirements for the contractors to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

- **Identify and Isolate Workplace Hazards:** Modify or adjust seats, furniture, and workstations to maintain social distancing of 6 feet between employees. Physically separate employees in all areas of the facilities including work areas and other areas such as meeting rooms, break rooms, parking lots, entrance and exit areas, and locker rooms. When physical barriers are not possible, use signs, tape marks, or other visual cues such as decals or colored tape on the floor, placed 6 feet apart, to separate employees. Replace high-touch communal items, such as coffee pots, water coolers, and bulk snacks, with alternatives such as pre-packaged, single-serving items. Improve ventilation in the building by increasing the percentage of outdoor air or improving central air filtration. Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) as a supplement to help inactivate the virus.
- **Administrative Controls: Change the Way People Work:** Actively encourage employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 to notify their supervisor and telework or stay home. Consider conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks (e.g., symptoms and/or temperature screening) of employees before they enter the worksite. Stagger shifts, start times and break times as feasible to reduce the density of employees in common areas such as screening areas, break rooms, and locker rooms. Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, including doorknobs, workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and copiers/printers. Establish policies and practices for social distancing, such as prohibiting handshakes, hugs, and fist bumps and encouraging the use of outdoor seating areas for lunches, breaks, and meetings.
- **Public transportation or ridesharing:** For employees who commute to work using public transportation or ridesharing, consider offering the following support: Offer employees incentives to use forms of transportation that minimize close contact with others, such as offering reimbursement for parking for commuting to work alone or single-occupancy rides. Allow employees to shift their hours so they can commute during non-peak busy hours. Employees should wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in all areas of the business. Note, however, that the CDC clarifies that cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment as they prevent the employee from spreading infection but do not protect the employee from infection.
- **Educate and Train Employees and Supervisors How To Protect Themselves in the Workplace:** Communication and training about workplace safety should be easy to understand, be in preferred languages spoken or read by the employees, and include accurate and timely information. Download and print the CDC's COVID-19 recommendation posters (available [here](#)), some of which are translated into different languages.

Some of the above measures are consistent in keeping with what some employers are already planning, while other employers may decide that it is easier to maintain telework options for

employees to work from home. In addition to the guidance issued from the CDC, employers should continue to monitor other applicable guidelines to ensure compliance as they return back to physical workplaces. Employers with questions about returning to work should consult with experienced employment counsel.

NATIONAL

Changes To Small Business PPP Loan Program

The Senate cleared changes to the popular Paycheck Protection Program that will allow small businesses more flexibility in using the rescue loan funds. The Bill, which passed the House last week on a 417-1 vote, now heads to President Trump's desk for his signature. Here are a few of the details about the bipartisan Bill, titled the [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020](#):

- Extend the "covered period" under which small businesses can spend the loan proceeds from eight weeks to 24 weeks, or until December 31.
- Remove the limits on loan forgiveness for small businesses that were unable to rehire employees, hire new employees or return to the same level of business activity as before the virus.
- Expand the 25% cap to use PPP funds on nonpayroll expenses, such as rent, mortgage interest and utilities, to 40% of the total loan. That lowers the 75% requirement for payroll expenses to 60% to get maximum forgiveness.
- Allow small businesses to take a PPP loan and also qualify for a separate, recently enacted tax credit to defer payroll taxes, currently prohibited to prevent "double-dipping."
- Extend the loan terms for any unforgiven portions that need to be repaid from two years to five years, at 1% interest.
- Give small businesses more time to rehire employees or to obtain forgiveness for the loan if social-distancing guidelines and health-related actions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other agencies prevented the business from operating at the same capacity as it had before March 1.
- Extend the period for when a business can apply for loan forgiveness, from within six months to within 10 months of the last day of the covered period, before it must start making interest and principal payments. PPP loan interest and payment of principal and fees will be deferred until the loan is forgiven by the lender.
- Extend an eight-week period -- when proceeds must be spent for loans to be forgiven -- to 24 weeks or until the end of the year, whichever comes first.
- Businesses would also have as long as five years, instead of two, to repay any money owed on a loan, and they could use a greater percentage of proceeds on rent and other approved non-payroll expenses.

Loan Transfers

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency finalized a [rule](#) clarifying that when a "national bank or savings association sells, assigns, or otherwise transfers a loan, interest permissible

before the transfer continues to be permissible after the transfer." According to the OCC, loan transfers help support the orderly function of markets and credit by providing liquidity and alternative funding sources and allowing banks to manage concentrations, improve financial performance ratios and more efficiently meet customer needs. In response to that rule, House Committee on Financial Services Chair Maxine Waters issued a statement noting "[i]t is shameful that [the OCC is] working to undermine consumer protections during a pandemic." Instead, Chair Waters urged the OCC to "ensure banks are helping consumers during this time of crisis, not promoting the exploitation of the banking system by predatory lenders to get around consumer safeguards."

WHAT WE'RE READING

Unemployment Rate Falls To 13.3 Percent As Economy Gains Surprise 2.5 Million Jobs Despite Coronavirus

The U.S. economy gained 2.5 million jobs in May and the unemployment rate dropped to 13.3 percent. That's down from 14.7 percent in April, according to the monthly employment report released Friday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The surprising data comes amid the phased reopening of businesses across the country after months of economic pain from the coronavirus pandemic, which pushed up unemployment to Great Depression-era levels and obliterated all job gains since the Great Recession. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Moves Closer to Legalizing Sports Betting

Desperate to patch a COVID-19-sized budget hole, the California Legislature is warming to the once-taboo subject of sports betting and has begun handicapping its potential tax windfall. After two years of watching silently as other states hurriedly legalized sports wagering, a Senate committee on Tuesday advanced legislation that could bring sportsbooks — and hundreds of millions in new tax revenue — to the Golden State. To read the full story, click [here](#).

With LA Now Dining' Alfresco,' What Happens To Criminalized Street Food Vendors?

The City once again outlawed vendors at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, but now with outdoor dining the new mandate, it's unclear if they'll be treated the same as everyone else. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Doctor Suspended For Video Shaming Health-Care Workers Sues Hospital

A physician has filed a lawsuit challenging her suspension from St. Joseph Hospital for posting a Facebook video shaming healthcare workers who failed to practice social distancing outside an Orange restaurant. The 38-page complaint, filed in Orange County Superior Court, says Dr. Ana Sanchez shot a March 27 video at Blue Bowl Superfoods to demonstrate a disregard for COVID-19 safety among some St. Joseph employees. To read the full story, click [here](#).

USC to Resume In-Person Classes in Fall, End Early Amid Fear of Coronavirus Return

The University of Southern California will reopen its campus and classrooms in August for a condensed fall semester that will end in November amid concerns that the coronavirus could reemerge late in the year as flu season gets underway. USC President Carol Folt said in a letter

Tuesday that the fall semester will begin on August 17, one week earlier than originally scheduled, and end by Thanksgiving. The 2020 fall semester was scheduled to run from August 24 to December 16 with a fall recess, which has been canceled. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Is Employer Liability Relief Possible In This Pandemic?

At both the federal and state levels, elected officials are considering proposals to relieve businesses of possible legal liability in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it applies to their workplaces. California is unique because state law allows private litigants to enforce state labor laws and collect legal fees and expenses. Enacted in 2003, California's Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), also known as the "Sue Your Boss" law, is well known in the state's business community for permitting excessive litigation over often technical violations of the law. In fact, the use of PAGA has become so prevalent as a litigation leverage tool that it is being used in a manner that is reminiscent of the abusive lawsuits filed under B&P Code Section 17200 and the ADA. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump Admin Selects 5 Coronavirus Vaccine Candidates As Finalists

The Trump administration has selected five companies, including Moderna Inc, AstraZeneca Plc and Pfizer Inc, as the most likely candidates to produce a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, the New York Times reported on Wednesday, citing senior officials. The other two companies are Johnson & Johnson and Merck & Co Inc, according to the paper. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Samsung launches hand-washing app for Galaxy Watch

Your Samsung Galaxy Watch could help make hand-washing a habit. Samsung on Wednesday touted its new smartwatch app that aims to help improve hygiene as we adapt to life during the coronavirus. The app, which became available in April, will remind watch wearers to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day with an alarm. The alarm will sound every two hours but the intervals between handwashing can be modified through the remind button in the app's settings. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Contact Tracers Concerned Police Tracking Protesters Will Hurt COVID-19 Aid

Contact tracing is a public health effort to help stop the spread of disease like the coronavirus outbreak. But now police are looking at it as a model for criminal investigations. That repurposing is raising serious concerns from contact tracers who fear this will make it even harder to convince the public to cooperate with their work. Contact tracing is a public health practice where workers interview people about their travels and people they've been in touch with, to help stop the spread of a disease. It's been an essential tool during the coronavirus pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

CES 2021 Plans To Be Live In Las Vegas Physically And Digitally

The world's "most influential tech event" is officially in the works for 2021. The Consumer Technology Association announced Wednesday it plans to go ahead with an in-person event next year in Las Vegas while addressing the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. While event after event has been canceled this year, the CTA has outlined some of the potential steps

it intends to take to keep attendees as healthy as possible at the conference, which takes place in January each year. Those steps include a lot more sanitation of spaces throughout the show. Attendees can also expect wider aisles in the exhibit areas and greater seat spacing at conference programs, cashless systems for purchases; thermal scans at entry points; and better on-site health services and medical aid. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Industry Leaders Explain Guidelines For Restarting Film And T.V. Production In Los Angeles, Deliver Them To County Supervisors

Deadline reported yesterday that the 22-page "Proposed Health and Safety Guidelines for Motion Picture, Television, and Streaming Productions During the COVID-19 Pandemic" document was sent to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday. There was no response from Newsom's office on Monday as to whether it had received the white paper. No word either from Cuomo's folks as to whether they have laid eyes on the report either. View the document in its entirety [here](#). But one very important group of officials has seen the report. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Universal Studios Hollywood Urges Los Angeles County To Allow Reopening By Mid-June And July 1

President and Chief Operating Officer of Universal Studios Hollywood, Karen Irwin, has asked the L.A. County Board of Supervisors to allow employees to return to work to prepare for reopening as soon as possible. Irwin believes that it would be safe for the theme parks to reopen, given how much of it is set outside, stating that "theme parks actually offer a more controlled environment than beaches, gardens or hiking trails." She ensures that proper protective measures would be in place, involving social distancing procedures and limiting capacity of the theme park. To read the full story, click [here](#).

County of Orange Pushes to Reopen Community Pools, May Also Reopen Youth Sports

Orange County officials are pushing to reopen community pools, and potentially youth sports like soccer, as two supervisors question why they're still shut down amid the coronavirus pandemic. Both public and private community pools have been closed for weeks under health directives seeking to slow the spread of the virus. That's now generating pushback from Orange County officials, who plan on sending a letter asking for state approval to reopen them. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Moves Closer to Legalizing Sports Betting

Desperate to patch a Covid-19-sized budget hole, the California Legislature is warming to the once-taboo subject of sports betting and has begun handicapping its potential tax windfall. After two years of watching silently as other states hurriedly legalized sports wagering, a Senate committee on Tuesday advanced legislation that could bring sportsbooks — and hundreds of millions in new tax revenue — to the Golden State. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Universities Will Never Be The Same After The Coronavirus Crisis

The coronavirus crisis is forcing universities to confront long-standing challenges in higher education, such as skyrocketing tuition costs and perceptions of elitism — and some of the

resulting changes could be permanent. Over the long term, universities might shift many classes online (a trend already under way), have fewer international students and even refashion themselves to be more relevant to local and national communities — both to solve pressing problems and to prove their worth at a time when experts and public institutions are coming under increased criticism. "The pandemic is speeding up changes in a tremendous way. To read the full story, click [here](#).

PPP Loan Program Accidentally Paid Some Small-Business Owners Twice

While many small-business owners complained of missing out on crucial funding from the Paycheck Protection Program, others mistakenly ended up receiving their money twice — or multiple times. The issue stems from the hectic early weeks of the program, when funding ran out quickly and borrowers were not hearing back from their banks, industry sources told NBC News. Although businesses must certify they are only applying for one loan, some small-business owners applied at more than one bank to ensure they could secure a financial lifeline amid the economic shutdown. To read the full story, click [here](#).

As Restaurants Reopen, What Will Eating Out Be Like In The Age Of Coronavirus?

The U.S. restaurant industry employs more than 15 million people and has an economic impact in the trillions, luring Americans to eat out about five times a week. Yet it is now facing near collapse, as coronavirus-related closures have led to plummeting profits and layoffs of an already vulnerable workforce. As some restaurants begin to reopen, and patrons wonder if it's safe to eat out again, we asked three experts what the future of dining could look like. To read the full story, click [here](#).

'The Covid-19 Recession Is Over,' Says Economist Zandi As May Job Losses Not As Bad As Feared

Companies cut nearly 2.8 million jobs in May, but that was far less than Wall Street estimates. Moody's Analytics economist Mark Zandi said there are signs that the worst of the jobs crisis is over, as is a steep recession brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Zandi said job creation likely will resume in June. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Are public pensions doomed because of the coronavirus pandemic? State, local budgets feel pain

With stocks well below recent highs and state and local government budgets crunched due to the coronavirus, public pensions are suddenly at risk of even greater shortfalls. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Senate Passes House Bill H.R. 7010 -PPP Borrowers Breathe A Great Sigh Of Relief

On May 29, I posted an article about the House's Bill, H.R. 7010, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). This Bill, as I said, is remarkably short and to the point, containing only 7 pivotal provisions which will forever change how PPP borrowers can make expenditures to facilitate the maximization of forgiveness of their loans, and best position themselves to survive the economic tsunami that we find ourselves in. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Want To Make A Face Mask To Help Protect Against The Coronavirus? What You Need To Know

Your state may be among one of the recent ones to reopen dine-in eating and retail stores as coronavirus lockdown measures continue to ease. If that's the case, you may be required to wear a face mask or covering in order to enter. This is to help prevent the spread of coronavirus in enclosed areas where it's harder to maintain social distancing recommendations of six feet. You can also find and buy a face mask online, or you can make one that suits your personality and fits your face comfortably. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How Banks Are Exploiting the Coronavirus Crisis for Profit

The public-health crisis from the coronavirus exposed and worsened an economic crisis that had been smoldering for years below the surface of favorable economic reports. The finance industry and its employees are responding to people who have lost their jobs, can't pay their bills, and need to feed their families. Many people were accumulating debt to supplement insufficient wages well before the outbreak. While nurses and doctors are first responders to the public-health crisis, bank tellers and credit counselors are first responders to the economic crisis. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Anxiety on the Decline, but Angelenos Worry More than Other Americans

Anxiety and depression related to COVID-19 peaked in early April and has been on the decline despite rising job losses, but folks in Los Angeles County are feeling worse than the rest of the country, USC researchers said Thursday. USC Dornsife's Understanding Coronavirus in America study surveyed individuals nationwide and found that even those unemployed as a result of the pandemic experienced a steady decrease in mental distress throughout May. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Note: While EKA monitors governmental announcements, guidelines and recommendations, our updates are prepared for informational purposes and are compiled from publicly available sources. Our updates should not be considered health, medical, legal, or tax advice. Always consult a qualified professional regarding any specific questions you may have. All hyperlinks are live and will bring you to the information mentioned. If you are not interested in receiving future emails from us, then please reply with a "Remove" in the subject line and mention the email addresses to be removed.