

1. Lt. Governor McKee: Opening Remarks

- a. Next week is *Tuesday* only; no Friday town hall until further notice
- b. Discussion of LG's press release from last week that urged the Governor to use the CARES Act money to give grant money to small businesses & to create a State funded loan strategy with local banks; read more [here](#)
- c. LG shares a video created by Thumbtack in 2015, who previously gave RI an F in small business friendliness; LG worked with Thumbtack to do something about this by bringing in policy makers, stakeholders, & the businesses that took part in the survey to get more feedback from the businesses

2. LG introduces Joe Rodio, Legal Counsel to Lt. Governor McKee

- a. Notes that the LG's letter to RI's Congressional Delegation (sent about 6 weeks back) almost mirrors the first few bullets of the bill based on the feedback that businesses gave to the Office of Lt. Governor McKee
- b. Notes that those on WorkShare will work reduced hours, qualify for UI, & the additional \$600 federal UI benefit
- c. on for questions throughout

3. LG introduces SBA Director Mark Hayward: Federal Update

- a. \$110 billion still left in the PPP (this is as of Friday, May 29)
- b. The US House of Reps passed an extension on the PPP (this is not law yet)
- c. If you have been denied an EIDL loan, send the rejection letter to Rhodelsland_DO@sba.gov
 - i. a few rejections have been reversed & the businesses were awarded the EIDL
- d. Contact SBA: Rhodelsland_DO@sba.gov

4. LG introduces DLT Assistant Director Matt Weldon: UI Update

- a. If you are on the call back list (i.e. filled out the online form, sent an email, etc.) you will receive a call back. Call back time on average is about 10 days, but is going down.
 - i. Please fill out this form (only one per issue):
- b. Data update: 234k UI claims; almost 60k are PUA; w/ an additional 23k TDI
- c. Fraud: dlt.investigations@dlt.ri.gov
- d. Working on modernizing the WorkShare program (currently manual); please email the Lt. Governor's staff at LtGov20@gmail.com & they will connect you w/ Director Weldon who is spearheading this program

- i. Before pandemic, the process took about 2 weeks: application was emailed in then manually entered into DLT's system— application volume has now grown
- ii. During pandemic, it will take about 3-4 weeks to work on getting a business' WorkShare plan approved (only a limited number of trained staff can do this)
 - 1. Updates to come on the LG's town halls (every Tuesday at 12pm)
 - 2. more info [here](#)
- e. Contact DLT: DLT.covid19@dlt.ri.gov

5. LG introduces the Gift it Forward Panel (RISmallBusiness.org) featuring:

a. Justin Gontarek of [OceanSide Graphics](#)

- i. LG will be visiting OceanSide Graphics on Monday
- ii. Has seen a spike in signage requests
- iii. Working on donating necessary plastic guards, etc. to businesses
- iv. Contact: Justin@OceanSideGraphicsRI.com

b. Chris Parisi of [Trailblaze Marketing](#)

- i. New website is complete & will be launched on Tuesday's call; live tutorial next call (6/2)
 - 1. this will be a hub with volunteer resources, how to open, etc.
 - 2. this is a *free* resource
- ii. Contact: CP@Trailblaze.Marketing

c. Lori Giuttari of Visual Thrive (RIThrives.com)

- i. *Update* RIThrives.com—> ShopLocalRhodelsland.com
- ii. Shop by category: made in RI, deals, online classes, delivery, etc
 - 1. it is *free* to register your business & to use
- iii. Contact: lori@VisualThrive.com

6. LG introduces DBR Director Liz Tanner: Regulation/Reopening Update

- a. More updates to come over the weekend; latest information will be posted on ReopeningRI.com & you can also look dbr.ri.gov
- b. Specific questions can be asked [here](#) or call 889-5550 (it will bring you to a voicemail box)
- c. Brewery & bar updates TBA
- d. Inspections have been going well; DBR is working on getting better signage for businesses
- e. Listen for Q & A

7. LG introduces Small Business Panel featuring:

a. Bill Bartholomew of Silverteeth & Bartholomewtown Podcast

- i. Being a musician is already a tough occupation; doesn't see any path forward other than reinventing how the industry works- become less dependent on performing at restaurants & bars & diversify income revenue streams including PUA which has helped
- ii. Bill featured LG McKee on a few of his podcasts, most recently discussing equity with Dr. Luis Daniel Muñoz (search The Bartholomewtown Podcast wherever you listen to your podcasts)

b. Colin Geoffroy of the Providence G (Rooftop, G Pub, Sarto)

- i. Hospitality/restaurant industry is a low margin business; bar revenue & event bookings bring in large amounts of revenue
- ii. Furthers the point that advocacy is key; rehiring will be difficult for small businesses (in reference to PPP flexibility & access)
- iii. There will need to be more assistance to businesses, especially those that are in the event industry (hairdressers, musicians, those in the wedding industry, etc.) that rely on venues like his (Rooftop, the ballroom, etc.) because large gatherings likely won't be permitted for a while
- iv. As seen differences between RI & MA; one of his MA businesses is a seasonal restaurant that hasn't been able to open yet (potentially mid-June), but there has been very little guidance; RI has had more direct & concrete guidance

8. Lt. Governor McKee: Closing Remarks

- a. Looking to donate PPE, computers, money, etc, please email LtGov20@gmail.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUp1kq7Qcfs>