

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT: PLAZA-AREA RESTAURANTS RESPOND TO MEMO FROM OWNERSHIP

Kansas City, MO – The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every facet of life around the globe. Amongst the hardest hit are the locally owned small businesses which make up the restaurant industry, having been shut down by government order to act as a first line of defense against the virus. In Kansas City, these restaurants have been pillars of community, employment, and service for decades, and it is in that spirit that many of these local restaurant owners have pivoted to provide take-out options to the community while earnestly trying to keep staff employed. These efforts are only possible with the help and understanding of our vendors, suppliers, and community partners.

It was with this sense of shared community effort that many of these restaurant owners reached out to the Country Club Plaza’s ownership to explore possible lease rent freezes, deferments, or other options that could help these businesses survive until our community is moving again.

However, to our surprise and disappointment, the [Country Club Plaza’s ownership sent a letter](#) last week stating “All Tenants will be expected to meet their lease obligations.”

Additionally, the Plaza’s ownership, in the midst of this national crisis, has billed these same restaurants with increased “Common Area Maintenance” fees and larger property tax amounts. These increased effective rent amounts, combined with the Plaza ownership’s unwillingness to work with the local business owners in this time of crisis, clearly is meant to put the corporate profits of the Taubman and Macerich groups ahead of the Kansas City community, the local restaurants and their thousands of employees. Unfortunately, under these circumstances, the continued operation of many of these local restaurants is seriously at risk.

- Plaza Restaurant Owners

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