



Papa Dan's

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November 15, 2024

TO: Palm Desert City Council
ATTN. Karina Quintanilla
Jan Harnik
Gina Nestande
Evan Trubee
Kathleen Kelly

FROM: Ira Mosley
Papa Dan's Pizza & Pasta

Greetings to all,

To say I am humbled by the response of the City Council is an understatement. The outpouring of support from all of you and the entire city and valley has been overwhelming to say the least. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't get stopped, get a call or text, or an email from someone asking when we will be reopening and how devastated they were to hear what had happened. I never knew that I was so popular and that Papa Dan's was such an iconic spot in Palm Desert and the entire valley.

For 40 years Papa Dan's has served the community with great pleasure. I know some of the council members when they were kids coming in for dinner with their parents and another who used to bring their children when they were small in for pizza. Community has always been my thing and I have gone out of my way to support endless venues in Palm Desert and the valley in general. From elementary schools to high school fundraisers, to endless charities, to Eisenhower Medical Center, Marriott Hotels, homeless shelters and shelters for battered women. It is how I was raised and I am proud of all the things I have done for so many good causes.



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I have never asked for anything in my life. I was brought up to do things on my own and have always done this. Unfortunately, now it is my time to ask for help. I am in a situation now that could hamper the reopening of Papa Dan's and am asking the City Council and the city of Palm Desert to help make this happen.

I was insured for the fire but like all people, I thought it would never happen to me, or if it did, that it would be a kitchen fire and we would have to replace that part and be up and going in no time. Never would I have thought that an arsonist, starting a fire in an adjacent unit would take the entire building down to the ground. The restaurant was a total loss, absolutely nothing salvageable. That was the hard part as there were many items in the restaurant that were collected in our travels and were one of a kind items that are gone forever.

Rather than wait for the old building to be rebuilt, which could be up to two years, we decided to relocate in the same center at the other end. There was a 5000 sq foot, free standing building that used to be Video Depot, available and we took it. It is about 1500 sq feet larger but it was already built. It was a shell and I have come to find out that building a restaurant from the ground up is quite a task. Monumental to say the least. It was definitely not something I planned on at my age but decided to take it on and put Papa Dan's back in business.

The costs of doing this are also monumental and beyond the scope of what I received from insurance. They devalued things as they were old and the replacements are incredibly expensive. I have attached some of these items as well as some other capital improvement items and whatever the city can do would be incredible. It will help Papa Dan's once again become an integral part of Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley.

Words cannot express my gratitude to all of you and the City of Palm Desert for all you have done for Papa Dan's.

Most sincerely,

Ira Mosley ``